

Groundswell

JANUARY 2019

ANGLESEA, LORNE, TORQUAY, WINCHELSEA

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Road Upgrade

Motorists and cyclists have safer conditions after \$1 million upgrading of a section of Horseshoe Bend Road, Torquay North.



The work, funded by Council involved widening a 1.5 kilometre stretch between South Beach and Blackgate roads.

The 6.4m wide carriageway, with gravel shoulders was transformed into a 10m wide sealed surface with 1.8m sealed bike lane shoulders. The road will receive a final seal later this year.

The section of Horseshoe Bend Road is part of the Geelong-Surf Coast principal bike network, providing an important link between Torquay, Geelong and the Bellarine.

Widening connects with existing sealed shoulders on Blackgate Road.

Council's road maintenance program continues into the New Year with work on upgrading sections of Grays and Forest roads at Paraparap.

A section of Grays Road between Forest and Flaxbournes roads will be closed to through traffic during reconstruction and widening work which will continue until March.

Forest Road reconstruction and widening work, between Moriac quarry entrance and Grays Road are scheduled to start in February and continue until early April.

The project is jointly funded by Council and the Federal Government's Heavy Vehicle and Safety and Productivity Program.

The roads are important links in Council's heavy vehicle freight routes and are frequently used by cyclists. Work will deliver safety and transport productivity benefits.

Projects completed during the second half of 2018 included repair of Allenvale Road near Lorne after a 20m section of the road slipped during a 2016 storm.

Repairs included construction of a concrete and steel retaining wall up to 2.5m high, with columns bored and concreted about 3m into underlying rock and connected to anchor blocks buried in the centre of the road.

The \$500,000 project was completed under the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance Scheme administered by the State Department of Treasury and Finance, on behalf of federal and state governments.

More on roads, SEE PAGE 2.



Cr Rose Hodge returned for fourth Mayoral term

Cr Rose Hodge cited love of community as a primary motivator in civic life following her election for a fourth term as Mayor of Surf Coast Shire Council.

Cr Hodge was returned to the chair on a unanimous vote at a Special Council Meeting.

She previously served as mayor in 2006-07, 2013-14 and 2015-16.

The Torquay ward councillor, elected in 2004, said she was looking forward to a busy and productive fourth term as mayor.

"This is a dynamic time for the Council and the Shire and we have much to look forward to," Cr Hodge said.

"The next two years are extremely important in the way that we finish the Council Plan, with all of its strategic objectives.

"As councillors we work hard for our community. I do this job because I really love the community involvement and seeing the diversity in our townships."

Lorne ward councillor Clive Goldsworthy was returned as deputy mayor.

Councillors congratulated outgoing mayor David Bell for his commitment and achievements during the past year.

Winchelsea Sculptures

Work is progressing on Winchelsea's entrance sculptures, in line with the original vision of late artist Matthew Harding.

Specialist steel fabrication is progressing and the completed works are scheduled for installation at Winchelsea's eastern and western entrances mid-year.

Mr Harding's project partner Ben Storch is fabricating the eastern sculpture and guiding a contracted fabricator through the complex design of the western sculpture.

Council officers have been working with Mr Storch to deliver the project in honour of Mr Harding, following his tragic passing.

Australia Day

Surf Coast Shire's outstanding citizen, young citizen and event of the year will be named during free community celebrations heralding Australia Day, January 26.

Council will partner local Lions clubs hosting barbecues in Anglesea and Torquay.

The Anglesea event will be beside the Anglesea River near the Visitor Information Centre from 8am, with awards presentations from about 9am.

Torquay's event near the Taylor Park Rotunda, The Esplanade, from 10am, will include awards presentations after 10am and a citizenship ceremony from 11am.

Council administers the Australia Day awards on behalf of the National Australia Day Council, recognising individuals and groups who have made extraordinary community contributions.



Michelle's new career on a roll

At 49 the mum of two has moved on after 25 years in the health industry to a new labour of love, driving heavy machinery with Council's road maintenance team.

She feels right at home at the controls of a 12-tonne multi-wheel roller.

"I love being in the machines," she says.

"A lot of pride goes into this work."

Michelle says she decided on a new career course after having filled in for her daughter casual labouring for a private company.

"I realised I love this industry, so I obtained some tickets, which would enable me to pursue a career" she says.

Those tickets included licences for operating a roller, excavator and front-end loader and haul truck, as well as for traffic control.

"Both my parents worked for the council in Collingwood," Michelle says.

"My dad looked at me and said 'hmmm, life's gone full circle!'"

Her first major project was Council's upgrading of Horseshoe Bend Road during October and November, running the multi-



Michelle Donlen is delighted to be heading down a new career road.

wheel roller on the 1.5km stretch between South Beach and Blackgate roads.

Work on the section, completed on schedule early in December, has included pavement reconstruction, drainage improvements, installation of guard fence and increasing of road width to accommodate bike lanes.

Michelle says she is proud to look back on her work, looks forward to many more projects and loves being part of her team.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN WITH A COUNCIL ROAD, LET US KNOW!

- Contact Council to report maintenance issues, or anything requiring attention by Council.
- Email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au quoting 'customer request' in the subject line. Provide a location and description of the issue you are concerned about. Include as much information as you can, and a photo if possible.

OR

- Phone our helpful customer service staff on 5261 0600 and outline your concerns.
- By using either contact method you will be given a Customer Request for Management (CRM) number.
- Your CRM number enables you to stay in touch with your request. You will receive progress updates and can request follow-ups from Council officers.

Council is committed to closing the loop on all CRMs by responding to them and carrying out inspections and repairs as required. Repair timelines are defined by the nature of the defect.

Your roads network

Surf Coast Shire communities are connected by three main categories of roads: State highways and tourist roads, arterial roads and municipal roads.

State highways, tourist roads and arterial roads are all 100 per cent funded and maintained by VicRoads, while Council funds and maintains 1038 municipal roads.

From Abbi Court in Moriac to Zeally Bay Road in Torquay, municipal roads total 1132km in length, and the network continues to grow.

Council built 9.8km of new roads in 2016, 6.7km in 2017 and 8.2km in 2018, mainly in growing subdivisions across the shire.

The Surf Coast Shire network includes 599km of sealed roads, 533km unsealed and 18 bridges.

Council carries out routine proactive inspections of the roads as well as reactive inspections, which are in response to customer requests.

On average 770 road segments equalling about 330km are inspected proactively each month.

Council's asset management team undertakes condition audits of the shire's entire road network every three years to inform capital and renewal work. The audits assess road pavement, foundation, shape and form.

Here are some further facts on Council's roads:

- Council's roads fleet includes three graders, two multi-wheel rollers, two Flocon road maintenance trucks, two truck and trailers, three maintenance trucks, two backhoes, one excavator, one sign truck and one street sweeper.
- In the past 10 years Council has gone from having 525km of sealed roads to 599km, and from 521km of unsealed roads to 533km.
- Council's civil department completed more than 2000 requests for maintenance on sealed and unsealed roads last year.
- Council has two works depots, one in Winchelsea and one in Torquay.

Safer Town Centre for pedestrians and cyclists

Part of Torquay's Esplanade will have a new 40km/h speed limit as part of a strategy prioritising safer walking and cycling.

Council adopted The Esplanade and Bell Street Traffic and Pedestrian Strategy in 2017. Work is scheduled to start at the end of April, following Easter, includes:

- Installation of a 40km/h zone along the Esplanade between Zeally Bay Road and Bell Street, and within the Gilbert Street area, including pavement marking.
- Defining of green cycle lanes.
- Overlay Road surfacing and upgrading of line marking between Gilbert Street and Bell Street, including cycle lane alignments.
- Installation of zebra crossings on Bell Street at intersections with Rudd Avenue and The Esplanade.
- Installation of zebra crossings along The Esplanade at the intersection with Bell Street, Price Street, Anderson Street and Gilbert Street.
- Upgrading of lighting at Anderson and Price Street intersections for greater pedestrian safety.

People will still be able to access businesses and properties during the upgrading, and traffic management will be in place.

Parking lanes will be fully open on weekends.

The strategy was developed in response to existing and forecast traffic pressures.

The project will enhance Torquay's vibrant coastal culture by enhancing walking and cycle links between the town and foreshore.

Small grants allocated

Twenty-three community-focused projects gained valuable impetus with allocation of a total of \$38,858 in Council's latest small grants round.



Representatives of organisations with interests ranging from coast care and sport to sustainable food growing and food aid received grants ranging between \$345 and \$4488 during a buoyant presentation ceremony in Council chambers.

The new Surf Coast Badminton Association received a \$2000 start-up boost for court hire and equipment.

Preservation of local history also featured strongly with projects including:

- \$2324 for a Lorne Historical Society project to interview and share the stories of elders of Lorne.
- \$2000 for Torquay Museum Without Walls for production of a book recording stories of more than 600 men and women from the shire who served during World War I.
- \$2000 for Bellbrae Cemetery Trust for installation of plaques commemorating pioneer families from the district.

Applications were assessed in environment, community initiatives, culture and arts and recreation and leisure categories.

Other notable project allocations included \$514 for Winchelsea Lions Club members for a hydraulic pallet lifter to move recycled paper, \$2000 for Anglesea Community Garden to provide a series of workshops on sustainable food growing, and \$600 for Torquay Food Aid for brochures informing of its new location.

Join the welcoming wave



Be sure to join the welcoming wave cheering the world's best cyclists as they ride through Surf Coast Shire in the 2019 Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race.

This world-class cycling event returns to our neighbourhood on Australia Day weekend. First up will be the Deakin University Elite Women's Race, expected to pass through Torquay between 1pm and 2.30pm on Saturday 26 January. The UCI WorldTour Elite Men's Race will follow on Sunday, coming through Torquay between 12pm and 1.30pm.

Before the elite race on Saturday, the 3500-strong Swisse People's Ride will take place. This is an amazing opportunity to ride on the same course as the pros – entries are still available at www.cadelevansgreatoceanroadrace.com.au.

Whether you're on your bike or taking a more leisurely approach to the weekend, make the most of the Surf Coast's beach and café lifestyle between all the cycling action.

Drop in to one of our official race day cheer sites offering up-close viewing points along Torquay's Esplanade, Bell Street, the Great Ocean Road and hinterland locations.

People are also urged to attend Council's special Welcome Wave ceremony for the 150 female elite cyclists on 23 January.

The ceremony beside Torquay Surf Life Saving Club from 5.30pm will be free and open to the public, and will include a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony before the riders attend an invitation dinner at RACV Torquay Resort.

Go to www.cadelevansgreatoceanroadrace.com.au for information on the weekend of world-class racing and www.cheercadeltorquay.com to find a list of cheer sites.

Fire up! Spreads fire ready message

With the Surf Coast recognised as one of the world's most bushfire-prone areas, all residents and visitors are encouraged to be fire ready.

Council's Fire Up! program helps people plan ahead, sharing information during visits to community events across the shire during spring and summer. The events include markets, school fairs, CFA open days and festivals.

To invite an officer to visit your community group or event and help your members prepare, contact our Resilient Communities Officer on **5261 0600**.

Free copies of the award-winning board game The Fire Game have been distributed at events. The game is inspired by local towns and enables players to put themselves in situations simulating real bushfire experience.

If you would like your own copy of The Fire Game, or would like to learn more about local risks and how to prepare, call **5261 0600**.

For information on how to stay safe, visit the **VicEmergency** website www.emergency.vic.gov.au, download the **VicEmergency app** or ring the **VicEmergency hotline** on **1800 226 226**.

BUSHFIRE PLACES OF LAST RESORT

The Surf Coast 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.

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.
- Help others. Look after those most at risk from 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

PREPARING TO MANAGE A POWER OUTAGE

Power outages can occur at any time.

To prepare, you should have a kit including:

- A list of important contacts, including your electricity provider faults line.
- A charged mobile phone or access to a landline which does not rely on electricity.
- A torch.
- Alternative cooking facilities and heating. Keep in mind that some gas appliances may still require electricity to operate.
- A battery-powered radio. Stay tuned to ABC 774AM,
- Access to fresh water. If you use electricity to run a water pump, make sure you have an alternative source of fresh water.

What if you have special needs? If you require an uninterrupted supply of power because you have a medical condition, you should report your needs to your electricity retailer – the company you pay for your electricity – and make sure they have your up-to-date telephone numbers and contact details.

For further information visit www.delwp.vic.gov.au/poweroutages.

BURNING OFF: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To burn off during the Fire Danger Period people must obtain a written permit from Surf Coast Shire Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

Generally a permit will only be issued for agricultural / 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.



Climate change is a global issue needing local solutions.

Powered by Positive is an initiative of Council's Renewable Energy Task Force, that will help our community transition to a renewable energy future.

Using less energy and switching to solar might seem simple, but it can be confusing knowing what to do or where to start.

Let's work together to use less electricity and help make a change that will be:

- Positive for your electricity bills
- Positive for our environment
- Positive for our community

Visit the Powered by Positive website and find out how you can take action, connect you with local suppliers and seek information about current rebates and funding opportunities.

For energy saving tips, and advice on switching to solar visit www.poweredbypositive.com.au

Anglesea food organics pilot underway

Council looks forward to hearing ongoing feedback as Anglesea residents continue piloting a food organics collection service.

The service started in December, meaning any household food scraps usually placed in the kerbside landfill (general waste) bin go instead into the kerbside organics bin along with garden clippings.

The organic material is turned into compost and mulch for use on farms, parks and gardens.

Council will monitor the pilot closely, and thanks over 750 residents and ratepayers who have completed surveys. Both permanent and part-time residents responded to let us know how they currently manage their waste, share their enthusiasm about the new system and raise any concerns they have.

A high number of households in Anglesea already use food scraps in compost or feed them to worms, chickens or other pets, and we encourage people to maintain this practice.

A number of survey respondents commented that they are happy to be able to add meat, bones, citrus and dog waste to their kerbside organics bin as they could not process them at home.

Others commented that they had little success with composting themselves, or were not at the residence frequently enough to have their own compost, so the kerbside organics collection makes a convenient way for them to have their organics processed into a useful product.

Anglesea residents identified a number of benefits of the new service, including:

- Reduced waste being sent to landfill and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from organics breaking down in landfill.
- Using food scraps as a resource by processing them into compost.
- Appreciation of increase of organic (food and garden) waste collection to weekly.
- Good sustainable practice for a cleaner future.



The majority of Anglesea households welcome the new service. Some residents have expressed concerns about the management of bins at holiday rentals, and the reduction to fortnightly landfill bin collections.

Council will continue its conversation about waste and recycling to help everyone to 'be a good sort'. That means taking special care sorting your household waste to ensure that it goes in the right bins and can be handled in the best way. We'll continue to provide resources to help households, including those used as holiday rentals, to get the right things in the right bins.

People can find updates on the pilot and tips for managing any concerns at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/AngleseaOrganics, and general waste and recycling information at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/WasteAndRecycling.

Residents and home owners in other Surf Coast Shire areas should continue to use kerbside organics bins for garden waste only. Council will review the Anglesea pilot in 2019 and consider expanding it to other areas.

Council to consider funding detailed theatre design

Council will consider funding detailed design for conversion of Torquay Sport and Recreation Centre into a theatre and arts space.

A 2018 Torquay Theatre Feasibility Study has identified the centre as suitable for accommodating a 'black box' studio theatre and art exhibition centre.

A black box theatre provides a versatile performing space enclosed by black walls or curtains.

Councillors will consider funding detailed design through the 2019-20 budget.

The study estimated capital cost of the stadium conversion at \$1.775 million and first year operating cost at \$162,000.

Torquay's arts community has long called for a dedicated performance space. Representatives of Torquay Theatre Troupe and other performing and visual arts groups, and individuals, have contributed to the study as members of a project working group.

The sport and recreation centre will be vacant after transfer of indoor sports to a new Surf Coast Multi-Purpose Stadium at Torquay North expected in 2020.

Feasibility evaluation considered the building structure, an operating and management model and potential funding opportunities.

Anglesea Bike Park

Council is continuing to work with Alcoa, the Victorian Government and Anglesea Bike Park community to secure the park's long-term future, following identification of potential new sites.

An investigation by mountain bike consultants World Trail has identified two sites on Alcoa freehold land, on Camp Road and at Alcoa South, as suitable for bike park development.

Council has formally received the findings, as an addendum to the Anglesea Bike Park Local Option Analysis which was completed in May.

Council has also formally acknowledged Alcoa's offer of an 18-month lease extension on the current bike park, continuing until June 2020, and the company's confirmation that it is not currently considering selling that land.

Alcoa has advised it needs more time to consider Council's bike park reports, the Victorian Government's Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework and Alcoa Freehold Concept Master Plan.

Council has previously offered to buy the existing land, and remains committed to helping Anglesea community save the park at its existing site or if necessary ensuring a new park is created in line with World Trail recommendations.

JANUARY 2019

- 17 Torquay Nightjar Market
- 18-20 Deans Marsh Sheep Dog Trials
- 20 Victorian Masters Surfing Titles, Jan Juc
- 20 Victorian Surf Rowers League carnival, Anglesea
- 20 Festival of Colours, Lorne
- 23 Welcome Wave, free community welcome to riders in the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Women's Race, Torquay
- 24-27 Rotary Book Fair, Torquay
- 25 Torquay Nightjar Market
- 26 Anglesea Lions Australia Day Breakfast, Riverbank
- 26 Torquay Australia Day celebrations, Taylor Park
- 26 Aireys Inlet Art in the Garden
- 26 Minya by Moonlight summer concert series
- 26 Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race People's Ride
- 26 Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race Elite Women's Race
- 27 Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race Australia Elite Men's Race

FEBRUARY

- 3 Great Ocean Paddle, Torquay
- 9 Surf Life Saving Victoria championships, Lorne
- 9 Minya by Moonlight concert series
- 9-10 Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surfing Titles, Urquharts Bluff
- 10 Torquay Rotary Motor Show
- 22 Torquay Tiger Drop
- 23-24 Junior Carnival State Championships, Lorne
- 24 Festival of Colours, Winchelsea

MARCH

- 1 Surf Life Saving Victoria School Surf League, Torquay
- 2-3 Surf Life Saving Victoria Junior State Championships, Lorne
- 5 Uniting Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day, Aireys Inlet
- 8 International Women's Day
- 15-16 Relay for Life, Polwarth Oval Torquay
- 15-17 Aireys Inlet Open Mic Festival
- 23 Think Pink, Anglesea Green
- 24 Deans Marsh Festival
- 29-31 By The Meadow, Bamba
- 30 Winchelsea Uniting Church Auction

APRIL

- 6 Surf Coast Trek, Aireys Inlet to Torquay
- 12-14 Kids Adventure Outdoors, Anglesea
- 17-28 Rip Curl Pro World Surf League Tour event, Bells Beach
- 18-22 Lions Easter Art Show, Lorne
- 20 The Drop Music Festival, Torquay

MARKETS GALORE!

- Torquay Farmers Market every Saturday
- Torquay Cowrie Market, third Sunday of the month
- Aireys Inlet Market 19 January, 10 February, 10 March, 21 April
- Anglesea Riverbank Market 1, 12, 20 January, 10 March, 21 April
- Lorne Foreshore Market 26 January, 20 April
- Farmers' Place Farmers Market 27 January, 24 February, 31 March
- Anglesea Primary School Twilight Fair 9 March
- Anglesea Lioness Car Boot Sale 9 March
- Winchelsea Makers and Growers Market 3 February & 7 April

Go to the markets and events calendar pages at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au for listings or pick up a 2018-19 Surf Coast Markets brochure at Visitor Information Centres or Council's office.