

Groundswell

JULY 2018

ANGLESEA, LORNE, TORQUAY, WINCHELSEA

Record attractions on the Arts Trail

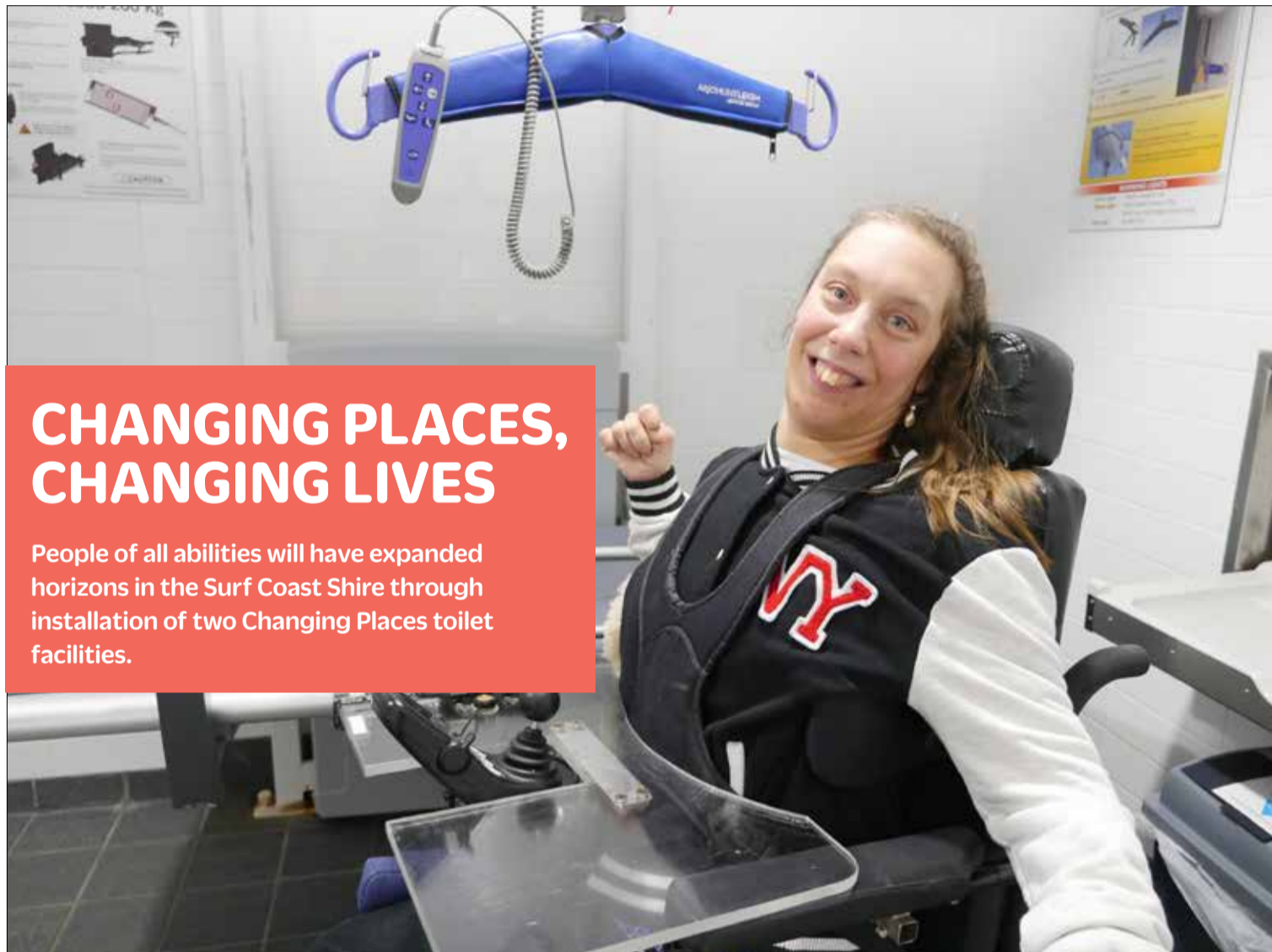
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CHANGING PLACES, CHANGING LIVES

People of all abilities will have expanded horizons in the Surf Coast Shire through installation of two Changing Places toilet facilities.

Amenities at Anglesea and Winchelsea will support greater access to the region for people with high physical support needs, following confirmation of Victorian Government funding.

Changing Places are designed for people who cannot use standard access toilets. They have a tracking ceiling hoist, adult-sized adjustable-height changing table and enough space for two assistants.

One Changing Place will be built next to existing amenities at Anglesea's Four Kings car park, and will be managed by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee.

Another will be built at Winchelsea Tea Rooms and will be managed by Surf Coast Shire Council.

Eliza Charters is among advocates to have welcomed the news.

As a regular visitor to Surf Coast Shire and a member of Council's reTHINK disABILITY campaign, who enjoys beaches, surfing and taking in the sights, she said Changing Places could transform experiences.

"Without Changing Places my day becomes restricted to being close to home so I can have my personal care needs met," Ms Charters said.

"Changing Places are important to me, my friends and for thousands of other adults and children with different abilities and personal needs.

"Some people with high personal needs have been known to have been assisted with those needs on toilet floors at some stage in their lives.

"People who need assistance with their personal needs don't always get the privacy, dignity and safety they should have when out and about in the community.

"Changing Places make a difference to people of all abilities. They make lives so much easier."

Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney announced Surf Coast Shire Council's two sites would be among 26 new Changing Places locations across the state during the next two years, adding to the 30 already in use.

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee chief executive officer Vanessa Schernickau said the organisation is proud to be supporting Changes Places.

"We're delighted to partner with our friends at Surf Coast Shire to secure funding for a Changing Place in Anglesea," Ms Schernickau said.

"We look forward to exploring further ways to improve the coastal experience for people of all abilities, including providing \$30k of funding for building the Changing Place, and a further \$40k for beach matting on the coast. We are also planning future accommodation options at our Crown land caravan parks at Anglesea, Torquay and Lorne."

Cost for both projects will be covered by \$200,000 Victorian Government funding and a \$177,000 allocation from Council, with work estimated to be complete mid-2019.

Surf Coast Shire Council's 2014-24 Access and Inclusion Plan guides its ambition to design environments supporting active participation for people of all abilities and ages.

Shire shout-outs



A shout-out to To Lorne's Graeme Wilkie, following recognition with a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Mr Wilkie has played a profound role across more than two decades nurturing and enriching arts in Lorne and across Surf Coast Shire, establishing his Qdos Arts centre and as a visionary co-founding Lorne Sculpture Biennale.

Funding wins

The government allocation for Changing Places is among several significant recent funding wins for Surf Coast Shire Council.

Others include:

- Anglesea Bowling Club \$1.055 million upgrade. Funded by \$500,000 from an Australian Government Community Development Grant, \$305,000 from Council and \$250,000 from the club. Work included new clubrooms with a function space, amenities, office, bar and commercial kitchen.
- Winchelsea Township Beautification Project \$454,180. Funded by \$155,000 from the Australian Government's National Stronger Regions fund, \$299,810 from Surf Coast Shire Council and \$50,000 from VicRoads.
- Torquay multi-purpose stadium, \$3 million commitment from the Victorian Government's Better Stadiums Fund. Council is also seeking \$5 million for this project from the Federal Government.

Shire shout-outs



Photo: Elley Harrison, Surfing Victoria.

A shout-out to Torquay's Anthony Hume on becoming the first Victorian to win at the Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles.

Mr Hume triumphed in the men's masters category at Bells Beach. The talented didgeridoo player also joined Corinna Eccles sharing Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony for indigenous surfers from across Australia at the start of the championships.

Record attractions on the Arts Trail



Deans Marsh artist Veronica Phillips

With a record 65 studios and public venues opening their doors, this year's Surf Coast Arts Trail is an exhibition too good to miss.

More than 200 artists will be involved along the trail on 11-12 August, showing work and sharing insights.

The total includes a surge in first-time exhibitors, and diverse works will range from painting and sculpture to pottery, woodwork and jewellery-making.

New attractions on the trail this year include clusters of artists at Torquay's Kithbrooke Park and Star of the Sea retirement villages.

Talent will also be on show across hinterland areas, including several painters and photographers at Winchelsea, a new gallery at Barrabool and three diverse studios at Gherang.

The Great Ocean Road will also offer many trail attractions, and galleries and cafes across the region will offer warm welcomes with drinks and meals.

People can read about participating artists and venues and plan their weekends with the Surf Coast Arts Trail map, available from the Council office in Torquay and at Visitor Information Centres.

People can also find details on the Surf Coast Arts Trail Facebook site or www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/artstrail

Domestic Animal Management Plan adopted

Strong community input shaped Council's 2017-21 Domestic Animal Management Plan, which was formally adopted in April.

The plan aims to foster responsible pet management and map how people, dogs and cats can live together in safety and harmony in a region with a rapidly growing population.

Surf Coast Shire is home to more than 6600 registered dogs and cats.

During consultation more than 420 responses were made to a survey on animal management, 32 people attended a workshop and 61 comments were received during public exhibition of a draft plan.

Key issues identified included willingness among community members to form closer links with local laws officers and need for strengthening of patrol capacity through addition of an extra officer and beach vehicle.

Increases in pet registration fees are set to help allow better law enforcement with increased patrols.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan can be found on Council's website in the dogs and cats section.

Hinterland futures in focus

Council has sought public feedback on its Draft Hinterland Futures Strategy during the past few weeks, with the display period set to close on 24 August.

The purpose of the strategy is to provide a clear vision and high level direction to vitalise the hinterland economy and ensure its long term sustainability.

The strategy combines economic development and land use planning to provide strategic direction for the Shire's rural areas and would work alongside other strategies including the G21 Agri-business Strategy and the Surf Coast Shire Local Food Program.

Key objectives have been developed following extensive consultation and analysis of issues and opportunities. Priority actions have been identified, including planning scheme amendment.

A key objective of the Strategy is the elevation of the landscape value of the hinterland and its contribution to the local economy.

Tourism and agri-tourism in particular have significant potential to increase visitation to the rural areas of the Shire, creating new experiences and events not centred on the Great Ocean Road. In addition, actions are planned to support and encourage agri-business and farming.



The strategy aims to respect the shire's environment and scenic landscapes, while providing clarity on future planning directions.

View the Draft Hinterland Futures Strategy via www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

Feedback will inform any changes before adoption of a final strategy later in 2018.

GREAT OCEAN ROAD SUBMISSION

Council has supported establishment of a new body to oversee rollout of a Strategic Framework Plan for the Great Ocean Road. A submission to a Great Ocean Road Taskforce issues paper supported securing of funding sources or funding commitments for delivery of the plan across up to 25 years. Taskforce chairs Peter Batchelor and Terry Mulder will report to the Victorian Government in late 2018.

LOCALISED IS ON THE WAY

Council is preparing to invite Surf Coast Shire businesses to list with Localised, an online business directory. Localised encourages businesses and residents to buy and trade locally and provides a platform to list projects, events and tender opportunities with a business-to-business connection focus. The Surf Coast directory will be launched during August. Keep an eye on www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au for updates.

ENTER THE ARTS CALENDAR COMP

Fancy your photographic or artistic skills? Entries for Council's 2019 calendar competition open on 1 August via www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au. The online competition will be open to ratepayers or residents in Surf Coast Shire, with only one entry permitted per person and all genres accepted. Keep an eye on newspapers and social media for updates.

Budget invests in community assets

Council has adopted its budget for the 2018-19 financial year, and included new projects identified through the Community Project Development Program.

The Community Project Development Program supports community groups to raise new project ideas and work with Council staff to explore their feasibility. New projects funded as a result of this program include:

- A new dressage arena at Connewarre
- New netball shelter sheds in Anglesea
- Upgrades to the Anglesea Rowing Shed
- Behind-goal safety nets at Spring Creek Reserve in Torquay.

In addition, Council listened to more than twenty other passionate submissions and has responded by allocating:

- \$199,000 for traffic improvement in Winchelsea
- \$150,000 (ongoing) for increased unsealed road maintenance across the shire
- \$50,000 (ongoing) for landscape beautification works (year 1 – Anglesea)
- \$45,000 towards new memorial cairns in Winchelsea (government funding also required)
- \$28,000 to upgrade heating and cooling at the Globe Theatre in Winchelsea
- \$28,000 for further planning work for an arts and culture space in Torquay
- \$20,000 for the Lorne community's Aspirations plan

As well as providing continued funding for important services and infrastructure, the 2018/19 Budget focuses on community growth and wellbeing and maintains Council's record of leadership and collaboration on social and environmental issues.

An average residential rate increase of 2.25 per cent is in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates system.

A waste charge increase of 8 per cent will respond to global changes in the recycling industry, as well as enabling planned improvements to waste services and rehabilitation at Anglesea landfill site.

Along with works already underway Council aims to deliver projects worth \$20.4 million during the next financial year, including:

- Surf Coast Multi-purpose stadium \$10 million, a further \$3 million being provided through a Victorian Government grant
- Gnarwarre Road major culvert renewal \$920,000
- Yurrock soccer pitch and lighting (Torquay) \$660,000
- Contributions to Jan Juc and Anglesea surf life-saving club redevelopments, \$250,000 each.

People can view the budget at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

Young achievers shine in our shire

Family, friends, school and civic leaders have gathered to salute fine young achievers at Surf Coast Youth Awards. Recipients were:

Arts - Max Aitken. After having danced full-time with the Melbourne-based Russian Choreographic Academy, Torquay's Max has accepted a position with the Queensland Ballet School headed by Li Cunxin.

Community - Remmi Morris and Nikita Ashton. Remmi and Nikita raised more than \$3000 for Shave for a Cure by shaving their heads. They are committed community contributors.

Leadership - Emily Ross. Emily is a student at Lorne P-12 College and actively supports and participates in camps, excursions and extra-curricular activities. She also mentors and supports other students.

Music - Grace Smaniotto. Grace has played with Melbourne orchestras since age 7. She dedicates full weekends to rehearsals and performances with Melbourne's best youth orchestras and weekdays to work with school ensembles.

Sport - Caitlin Aitken. Caitlin represented Victoria in national Futsal championships in Sydney and won selection to tour Spain with the Australian youth team. She played for two seasons of National Premier League soccer with Galaxy United.

In other awards for youth, Council honoured Surf Coast Shire rising surf stars at the launch of the 2018 Rip Curl Pro at Bells Beach.

India Robinson, Bella Wilson, Angela Ball, Kenta Fergusson, Jayden Schram and Jack Kay were named rising Stars, based on World Surf League tour rankings.

Grasstree Park restoration



New nesting boxes for native bats and ringtail possums are being monitored for activity as work continues revitalising bushland and habitat at Torquay's Grasstree Park Nature Reserve.

The boxes, built by Torquay Men's Shed members and installed by a contractor earlier this year, are part of the masterplanned program restoring the health of the native heath and woodland.

Ongoing work includes revegetation with up to 4000 plants, weed and pest animal control and preparation of new nature trails and pathways.

A new car park off Messmate Road is now complete, with accompanying new signs.

Grasstree Park is covered by a Trust for Nature conservation covenant, providing permanent protection of native vegetation.

The masterplan work, refined by community members, stakeholders and Council, focuses on protecting conservation values while encouraging outdoor passive recreation and interaction with nature.

The 26ha park is a key environmental asset given its proximity to Torquay growth zones.

Council is continuing to manage low-risk deposits of non-friable asbestos found within the park and working to implement an ecological fire management plan in partnership with the Country Fire Authority.

2018 Surf Coast Shire Australia Day Awards

IN PROFILE: Young Citizen of the Year, Dan Smith



Dan Smith says receiving recognition for his volunteer work felt good, but nowhere near as good as saving a life.

The devoted Jan Juc Surf Life Saving Club and Torquay Marine Rescue Service volunteer recalls one rescue in particular from last summer.

A girl was in deep trouble and sinking when he grabbed her and hauled her from the waves to his rescue craft. Her parents later sent an emotional message of thanks to the life saving club.

"You're there to make a difference," Dan, 19, says simply.

"Awards are good but I never thought I should get recognised for helping others out. I don't do it to be recognised, I do it because I want to do it and enjoy doing it."

Dan has known Jan Juc Surf Life Saving Club, where his dad Peter is a life member, as part of his life since childhood and family members testify that he has always been inclined to help others.

As well as contributing countless hours to the surf club and marine rescue service he also volunteers for Bellbrae CFA brigade and has attended incidents including bush, farmland and structure fires, and a car accident where he provided spinal support for a trapped occupant while a State Emergency Service crew cut the vehicle from around them.

Since accepting his Australia Day award the full-time apprentice carpenter has, almost inconceivably, increased his volunteer output. Most weekends until the end of May involved 6am starts and eight or nine-hour days on jetski patrols.

At Jan Juc Surf Life Saving Club Dan assists in training bronze medallion courses and nippers. With Torquay Marine Rescue Service he helps train the club's newer jetski users, and has taken on a committee role assisting the gear steward.

He is also seeking out funding opportunities for upgrading of safety equipment.

Dan's skill and composure on water craft has also led to him taking on a coxswain's course supported by the marine rescue service, which will ultimately enable him to operate a commercial vessel up to 15 metres.

He holds long-term ambition of being able to transfer all of his skills to a role in the navy, but for now combining his love of water, water craft, volunteering and ability to help others feels just right.

Mayor's recycling message a hit

Mayor David Bell has proven a social media hit with a video focusing on sorting of household rubbish.

The video, posted on Council's Facebook page has had more than 5400 views.

With increased focus on the recycling sector, Cr Bell's important message is to keep up the good work. Council's contractor can still send recyclables to China as long as they are sorted correctly.

It is important for householders to ensure items are separated correctly between bins.

The picture (right) shows all of the items Cr Bell sorted for recycling (1), soft plastic collection at supermarkets (2) and landfill (3), and here are some accompanying tips:



● Recycling ● Soft plastics ● Landfill

Plastics

You can now recycle a wider variety of rigid plastics. You can also recycle plastic toys, with batteries removed, CD cases, roll-on deodorant dispensers and kitchen containers.

You can also leave plastic lids on empty plastic bottles, to make sorting easier for contractors.

Soft plastics

Plastics which can easily be scrunched into a ball can be taken to collection points at Coles and Woolworths supermarkets for recycled through the REDcycle program.

Soft plastics include single use plastic bags, clingwrap, biscuit and chocolate wrappers, rice and pasta bags and cereal box liners.

Paper and cardboard

Pizza boxes can be recycled, just make sure there are no food remnants.

You can also leave the plastic windows in your envelopes.

Glass

Not all glass can be recycled. Mirrors, window glass, drinking glasses, Pyrex-style baking dishes and ceramic items should not go into the recycling bin.

Metals

Aluminium foil can go into your recycling. Wipe it clean, scrunch it into a ball and throw it in.

Watch Cr Bell deal with his aluminium foil and more by visiting Surf Coast Shire Council's Facebook page.

Service in the spotlight:

Dedication with smiles at Visitor Centres

Seizing every opportunity to make a first impression, Surf Coast Shire Council's Visitor Information Centre staff and volunteers play an important frontline role.

The staff and volunteers put a smiling face on the municipality, greeting and advising hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and pointing the way to the best experiences.

The Council has four Visitor Information Centres. Torquay and Lorne have salaried staff, with volunteers helping with operations. Winchelsea and Anglesea have volunteers providing daily face-to-face information.

- A weekly average of 70 volunteers help staff across the four centres each week.
- In 2017 the centres engaged with 249,334 visitors.

Two volunteers also staff Torquay's Australian National Surfing Museum, adjoining the Visitor Information Centre, and in early 2018 the attraction wiped out some long-standing records.



The museum recorded its highest January visitation since 1999 and its highest February visitation since 2000, great reward for the dedicated volunteers, curators and Australia's home of surfing.

From coast to hinterland, staff and volunteers at the shire's Visitor Information Centres play critical roles in engaging people and encouraging them to stay longer and enjoy more, with flow-on economic benefits for the region.

Fittingly, Visitor Information Centre volunteers were among guests of honour at Council's annual volunteer recognition morning tea in May.

What's on

JULY 2018

JULY

1-31 Love Winter In Aireys

AUGUST

1-31 Love Winter In Aireys

11-12 Surf Coast Arts Trail

18-19 One Act Play Festival, Anglesea

18-19 Anglesea Ekiden Trail Running

25 Winchelsea Spring Flower and Craft Show

30-31 Festival of Performing Arts, Lorne

SEPTEMBER

1-2 Festival of Performing Arts, Lorne

1-2 Victorian Open Surfing Series and Victoria Team Titles, Bells Beach

15 Surf Coast Century, Anglesea

15-16 Amy's Gran Fondo Weekend of Cycling, criterium and Amy's Wall, Lorne

16 Hoka One One Trail Running Series, Anglesea

22-23 Angair Wildflower and Art Show, Anglesea

OCTOBER

6-7 Drink Arts Food Torquay weekend and Bell St Fiesta

7-14 Art of the Mind Festival

13-14 Sun Bear Festival, Anglesea

MARKETS AND FAIRS

JULY

28 Torquay Farmers Market

AUGUST

4, 11, 18, 25 Torquay Farmers Market

SEPTEMBER

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Torquay Farmers Market

2

Winchelsea Makers and Growers Market

15-16 Amy's Gran Fondo weekend, market and expo

16 Cowrie Market, Torquay

OCTOBER

6, 13 Torquay Farmers Market

7 Winchelsea Makers and Growers Market

Details of events, markets and fairs can be found at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/events.

Waste vouchers issued

You are receiving new 2018-19 waste vouchers with this rates notice and issue of Groundswell.

They will be valid for use until 31 August 2019.

Vouchers mailed to ratepayers at the end of May and dated 2017-18 were sent in error but will still be honoured at transfer stations until 31 August 2018.

Visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au for listing of transfer station locations and opening hours.