

Country and Waters

New event sparks Saturday night fever

Smooth moves, catchy tunes and social connection — the Roll'n Beats Disco is a welcome addition to the Surf Coast Events calendar.

The next disco will be held at Wurdi Baierr Stadium on Saturday 2 September from 6.30pm to 10.30pm, with everyone welcome.



“Our vision is to offer these all-ages discos every eight weeks, so people have something to look forward to and Surf Coast residents can invite friends or family visiting the region,” said Surf Coast Roller Skaters founder Laura Issell (pictured), who wants to share the joy that skating brings.

“The disco will help with community connection, intergenerational relationships, and mindfulness. It’s a chance for people of all skill levels and all ages to come together, try something new or improve on building a skill.”

Surf Coast Roller Skaters — which also runs free beginner’s workshops — was a recipient in Council’s 2023-24 Event Grants Program, which supported 21 events with a total \$85,500.

“Council’s event grant allows us to secure space large enough to host all the incredible skate crew visiting us from near and far, and welcome as many new people as possible to come experience the fun,” Laura said. “The grant also means we are able to support the local arts and music scene, including local DJs.”

Learn more and purchase tickets: [@surfcoastrollerskaters](#)

Stay up-to-date with local events: [@surfcoastevents](#)

AIREYS INLET AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

National not-for-profit housing provider Housing Choices Australia is working with Surf Coast Shire Council and local community members on the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project.

Council endorsed Housing Choices Australia as the preferred proponent of the project, which will develop social and affordable housing on vacant land at 2 Fraser Drive.

A co-design process brought together representatives from Housing Choices Australia, a community advisory group of 10 community members with technical and lived experience expertise, councillors, and Council officers.

The next phase of the project is a final design concept and full proposal, to be considered by Council.

The Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project highlights our commitment to play our role in the affordable accommodation crisis — a national issue that we’re feeling the impacts of locally, particularly in coastal towns.

A wonderful weekend awaits on the Surf Coast Arts Trail

It didn't take long for artist Erin Reinboth to reflect on whether to make the move to Ashmore Arts, from her home studio in Torquay.



Erin Reinboth will make her Surf Coast Arts Trail debut on 5 and 6 August.

"The fabulous Ashmore owner Stewart Guthrie took my family on a tour," she said of the creative hub. "Adjoining Spring Creek, there is wildlife-filled acres of rolling hills, creative energy and serenity, it is honestly an artist's haven. I was packing my bags the very next day!"

The intuitive abstract artist — whose works celebrate her surroundings and experiences — will welcome patrons into her new studio space as part of this year's Surf Coast Arts Trail on 5 and 6 August.

"I am looking forward to sharing the joy that painting gives me," Erin said. "I can't wait to meet all of the Arts Trail community and any other budding

creatives and artists out there. I will be live painting throughout the two days, and hope to inspire others to get their brushes out and get creating."

The 2023 Surf Coast Arts Trail is a Council-run event, aligning with our goal to acknowledge the value of arts and creativity and nurture their growth.

The trail will feature more than 200 artists spread across the coast and hinterland — from hobbyists to professionals, working in all types of mediums. Trailgoers will see first-hand why the Surf Coast is one of regional Australia's top creative hotspots.

Plan your Arts Trail weekend: surfcoastartstrail.com.au

Aquatic centre design progressing

A detailed design of our new Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay is nearing completion.

Plans are scheduled to be presented for consideration at a Special Council Meeting on 8 August.

If Council approves the detailed design, construction tenders will be called, aiming for a start by April 2024. Completion is forecast for early 2026.

Council resolved on the scope and budget for the project at its February 2023 meeting, with the centre to include an indoor 25-metre pool, one 20x10-metre indoor warm water program pool, allied health suites,

program spaces, gym, café and supporting amenities.

Schematic design was completed in early June with input from the project Community Reference Group.

The centre will adjoin Wurdi Baierr Stadium alongside Banyul-Warri Fields in Torquay north, supporting our Council Plan ambition to provide our community with social infrastructure supporting healthy lives.



Rainbow Playgroup takes off with flying colours

Toy trucks zoom across the room, snacks are shared, and crayon creations adorn an easel. As toddlers do their best dinosaur roars, a group of parents chat at a weekly catch-up they've made their own.



Hannah (front) at Surf Coast Rainbow Playgroup with (L-R) Sheree, Bec, Finn, Charlie, Huxley, Ari and Maria.



In 2022, Council launched the Surf Coast Rainbow Playgroup in partnership with LGBTQIA+ families, to provide a safe and inclusive space for LGBTQIA+ parents, friends and allies to connect while their children play.

"We came to the first one at the beginning of last year, and we've been coming back ever since," said Hannah, who attends with her two-year-old son Charlie.

"It was previously once a month but as parents, we talked about how the kids were all at that similar age where they could make connections, so we wanted to make it more regular. As they become older, we also thought it was more important for them to see families that look the same as theirs.

"This generation is going to grow up knowing that all families are different, which is extremely different to what we had growing up. It's great."

As of this year, the playgroup runs weekly — either at an outdoor venue such as a playground or the beach, or at Torquay Children's Hub when it's cooler.

Council also has a Rainbow Families Network Group, to build connections and share information. To join the playgroup or network group, email childandfamily@surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

Surf Coast Rainbow Playgroup is one of numerous initiatives by Council's Child and Family Health team to help foster a thriving, connected, healthy community. The team also coordinates parent education sessions, first-time parent groups, Mother Goose rhyme time, and family open mornings.

Winchelsea Mud Hut renewal

Winchelsea's Mud Hut renewal project has progressed to construction phase, but partial demolition has revealed the presence of fauna including a microbat, meaning full demolition will not proceed until September.

Council's contracted ecologist discovered a microbat and a gecko during careful removal of sections of the structure and believes more microbats might be located in ridge capping, which could not be removed due to the instability of the building.

Microbats are seasonal visitors. Others located in the building are likely to have moved on by September but our ecologist will be on site during demolition for careful removal of the ridge capping to safely relocate any that remain.

Full demolition will not proceed until the ecologist is satisfied all fauna is safe.

The next phase of demolition of the hut will be done during September using machinery, due to safety precautions.

We look forward to seeing the community-led design for the replacement shelter take shape and appreciate the patience of Winchelsea community members.

For updates on this and other Winchelsea projects visit our dedicated page surfcoast.vic.gov.au/winchprojects.



SURF COAST SHIRE COUNCIL
1 Merrijig Drive (PO Box 350)
Torquay 3228
Phone: **5261 0600**
surfcoast.vic.gov.au/request

OFFICE HOURS:
8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

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

Recycled seating a winner at Stribling Reserve

Bench spectator seating made from recycled products has proven an easy sell on several levels as part of Lorne Stribling Reserve Pavilions Redevelopment.

The Project Control Group installed more than three tonnes of recycled composite material on seating, decking and walkways during the upgrade of community and netball pavilions.

The product has drawn praise from all quarters for its appearance and low maintenance attributes, and patrons have been happy to pay for the privilege of reserving their own spaces on the sustainable seating.

Stribling Reserve Community Asset Committee chairman Pete Spring said the project funding initially provided for only one of three bays of benches.

“In order to raise the funds necessary to have the extra two bays supplied and installed, we came up with the concept of a seat on the bench, where people contributed money to reserve a space which would be identified with a plaque,” Pete said.

“It proved very popular and we sold over 130 plaques, which gave us the necessary funds for the two further bays. The seats were installed the week before our first home game and we have received lots of praise for how it looks and how comfortable they are.”

The seating contains 94 per cent plastic and wood shavings that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

The Victorian Government provided \$86,061 towards the pavilions redevelopment through its Sustainable Infrastructure Fund.



Stribling Reserve Community Asset Committee chairman Pete Spring.

Council contributed \$3.2 million and the Australian Government \$3.2 million. The Lorne community has raised \$650,000 for the project.

The project is being hailed as having set a new standard for Council in sustainable product use, and supports Council Plan environmental leadership ideals to increase use of recycled materials.

Sustainability Victoria is elevating the project through its Buy Recycled Service channels, as a positive case study encouraging other councils and organisations to consider using recycled products.

Find details and video highlighting the project by visiting sustainability.vic.gov.au and searching for Stribling Reserve.

Please don't feed the cockies

What seems like harmless fun can be detrimental to our wildlife and to our property.

When you feed cockatoos it teaches them that snacking on wild birdseed and food scraps is much easier than foraging around in the trees all day, like they are meant to do.

Once they are used to being out of their natural habitat and in our urban environment, they stick around. But now instead of digging in the dirt and chewing on seeds and branches, they dig in our bins and chew parts of our houses and property to keep themselves busy.

The damage and destruction isn't always at the location where they've been fed; they are curious and like to explore the neighbourhood for the juiciest timber window frames, crinkliest rubbish and tastiest kerbside bin contents.

So remember:

- Don't attract cockatoos to your place (or your neighbourhood) by feeding them.
- Tell your guests not to feed them either.
- Put your bins out the night before collection or prior to 5.30am on the day of collection. And bring emptied bins in as soon as possible (within 48 hours after the collection).
- If your bin has one of the trial bin locks on it, make sure it's engaged at all times.

Find out more at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/dontfeedwildlife.

