

RHYLL REPORTER

RCA Meeting

The Rhyll Community Association **Meeting** will be held at 10am
Saturday 17th May 2025
Rhyll Mechanics Hall
All residents welcome

Residents Afternoon Tea

The date of the next **RCA Afternoon Tea** to be held at the **Rhyll Hall** will be advised shortly. These events will be held quarterly rather than monthly due to minimum attendance.



New seats should be installed along the foreshore shortly.



Garage Sale Trail April 19th

The Rhyll Garage Trail Sale is on again! Save all of your treasures and trash for this fabulous community event.



We just need to know **who** wants to be included and a very **brief list** of what items you might be selling. We also need **your address**.

The RCA then compose a list for prospective buyers of your addresses and what goods you'll be offering. This list will be handed out at 9am on Easter Saturday - So you won't be having early bird buyers coming by your house at 6am!!

This is a Rhyll Community Association Event and is no charge to our residents.

Email or ring Jim with your details
jandkkiley@bigpond.com 0428 322 392

What's Going on?

So Rhyll will no longer be getting the Brewery which will delight some residents and cause dismay for others. Unfortunately COVID seems to have entangled another victim.

But on a lighter note, we are pleased to hear that Rhyll will be getting a Tavern!! The 'old' Foreshore restaurant will be taken over by Woolie Tavern entrepreneurs set to open some time around August.

Businesses in Rhyll

Beauty Therapy

Bombshell Betty 0400 120777

Electricians

Electrical Insight 0418 100389

Cafes/Restaurants

My Seaside Cafe 5900 0666

Tides Fish & Chips 5956 9230

Rhyll General Store 5907 6796

Garden Maintenance

Kerrin Sutherland-Parker 0484 145252

Hairdresser

Elements 5900 0811

Home Maintenance

John Kroon 0433 319716

Mechanics

Phillip Island Motorcycles 0400 567424

Marine Supplies

Phillip Island Marine 5956 9238

Rhyll Tennis Courts

Available for casual hire. \$15 per hour (plus \$5 refundable key deposit) from the General Store. Racquets can also be hired. For more information call Cheryl 0427 680483

Thermomix Consultant

Contact Carolyn May 0409 252 099 for 1:1 Consults, In Home Demonstrations, Cooking Classes and Customer Support



TRIVIA, GAMES, a RAFFLE and LOTS of FUN

7pm Saturday 22 March 2025

RHYLL HALL, Lock Rd

Bring gold coins for some of the games
and B.Y.O glasses, nibbles & drink

\$10 entry fee for the FUN to start at 7pm

All money raised on the night goes to the Rhyll Tennis Club for the
PICKLEBALL PROJECT

Pls send your name, mobile, and number of people attending to
rhylltennis@gmail.com

Or text 0409 186 529

Places are limited: we need to know the numbers so things can run smoothly for a fun time.

Agapanthus - love 'em or hate 'em....

*.....You either love them or despise them but either way they.....
cause grief to our native plants.*



A recent blitz on our northern foreshore in February managed to fill 8 green bins with the help of residents. This will be an annual event. The real tragedy is if we

could only transport them to UK we'd all be making a fortune! A recent visitor couldn't believe they cost £100's each plant.



Come along and have FUN with Pickleball a social game that's easy to play and learn. Now offering regular Sessions until the end of MAY!

Tuesday mornings 9.30 am

Wednesday mornings 9.30 am

Friday mornings 9.30 am

Have some fun and take advantage of the two FREE sessions, including use of equipment and coaching by other members.

Subsequent games \$10.00 per session, including equipment hire. Our clubroom will be open during these sessions with Tea/Coffee and biscuits, a gold coin donation would be appreciated. Come along to find out more and meet some friendly people.



Cooking and Thermomix Demonstration - Rhyll



Tired of cooking the same old meals?
Looking for some inspiration for quick, simple, healthy meals on a budget?
Heard of Thermomix and wonder what all the fuss is about?

Come along at 12 noon on Sunday 30th March for a 'Pizza and Prosecco' cooking demonstration and lunch using the Thermomix.



Numbers are strictly limited, tickets, venue, prices etc are provided via the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CZZFU> or contact Carolyn 0409 232 099



Join our Phillip Island Group

Take Weight Off Naturally

Every Thursday at 8.45 - 9.45 am for weigh in time at Rhyll Hall

Followed by a general Meeting and group discussion from 10am

Contact Vincent Vale 0414 709 066
Lillian Heflingers 0438 595 688

The telephone comes to Rhyll

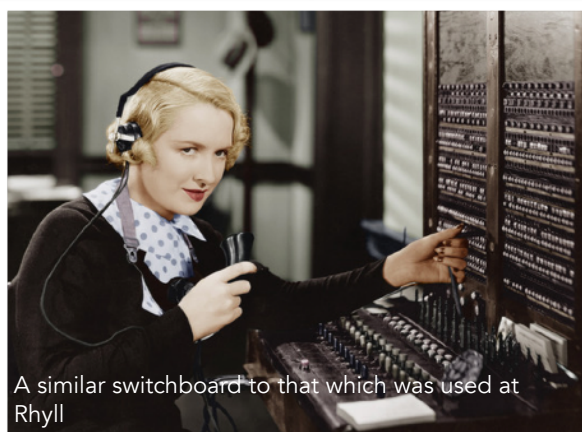
By Pamela Rothfield

Today, it's hard to imagine life without instant communication. Whether through mobile phones, social media, or email, staying connected to friends, family, and the wider world is a constant part of our daily lives. We can reach anyone, anytime, from anywhere. But just over a century ago, this kind of connectivity was a distant dream, especially for those living in small, remote communities like Rhyll. The journey to modern communication on Phillip Island—and specifically in Rhyll—was one of persistence, ingenuity, and the need to bridge large distances.

Telecommunication on Phillip Island began in December 1884, when the Post and Telegraph Department connected Cowes to the mainland telegraph system. To achieve this, two 160-foot masts were erected between San Remo and Newhaven, with the wire suspended 120 feet above the water. This ambitious project laid the foundation for future improvements in communication across the island.

While the telegraph system served the island into the early 20th century, it wasn't until 1921 that the first telephone exchange was introduced in Cowes. Albert Smith, the owner of Cowes Motor Garage, played a significant role in bringing this service to the island. The telephone exchange quickly grew in popularity, and more residents and businesses began to take advantage of the convenience it provided. But for Rhyll, as well as other areas on the island, the need for a telephone connection became increasingly urgent.

By 1923 the local council petitioned the Postmaster-General to extend the telephone lines to Rhyll which had been identified as an important location for a second telephone exchange due to its strategic position for the maritime sector. By the end of that year, the Post Office Department had surveyed and pegged the route for the new line, connecting Rhyll to the Cowes network, which would take off from the Cowes-Newhaven line at the Five Ways crossroads. This new connectivity would ensure that ferry delays could be communicated swiftly to Cowes and provide vital information to residents, passengers and visitors alike. All Ferries servicing Cowes and the mainland moored in Rhyll's sheltered waters avoiding the rough seas which other parts of the island experienced. It became essential to have a reliable connection for transmitting messages about ferry delays when weather conditions prevented vessels docking at Cowes.



A similar switchboard to that which was used at Rhyll

But Rhyll's telecommunication history didn't start with the telephone. The Rhyll Post Office had been a crucial part of the village's infrastructure for many years before the telephone exchange was established. Around 1902, the Post Office moved from Captain Lock's home to the McFee home, where it was operated by Eva McFee, the daughter of William and Annie McFee. Each day, Eva would meet the ferry at the Rhyll jetty, carry the mail bag back to her parents' home, and undertake the postal duties. She was paid just 16 pounds per annum for this important service.

In 1919, telegraph services were introduced at the General Store in Rhyll, allowing telegrams to be sent locally. Before this, Rhyll residents had to travel to Cowes to send messages via telegraph. With the advent of telegraph

services to Rhyll also came the transfer of the Post Office from the McFee home to the General Store, which was operated by Stan Walton, who had opened his little store next to his home (basically in the location it is today). This was a key moment in Rhyll's telecommunication history, as it allowed the village to become more integrated into the growing network of communication on Phillip Island.

The telephone exchange introduced in Rhyll four years after the telegraph service, also operated out of the General Store, continuing the tradition of using the store as a local hub for communication. The exchange operated Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. However, if anyone needed to use the telephone outside these hours, an opening fee was charged. Local 'lass' Lorna McFee operated the switchboard in the late 1940s for Mr. Nicholson, at the time the owner of the General Store. The switchboard was located roughly behind where the post office boxes are today and comprised plug and cords - which connected the callers.

Early telephone numbers in Rhyll included:

- Ozzie Underdown: Rhyll 1
- Mrs. Norling: Rhyll 2
- Percy McFee: Rhyll 6
- McIlwraiths: Rhyll 7
- Mrs. Reid: Rhyll 9

As the telephone service in Rhyll grew, the need for better connections continued to expand with Ventnor joining the growing telecommunication network.

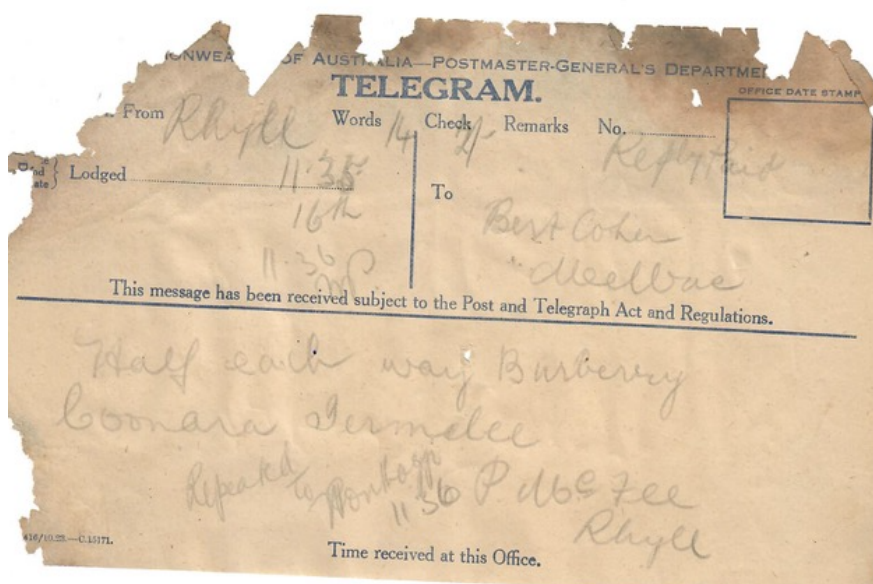
In 1925, however, as the demand for more reliable telephone service grew, the quality of the lines became a point of contention. Storms often interrupted the service for days and thus, the Cowes Progress Association petitioned the Post Office Department for a direct line to Melbourne by laying a cable between Sandy Point and Cowes. Unfortunately, the department declined, citing the high cost. It took four years but finally in 1929, the proposal to lay a submarine cable across Western Port from the Mornington Peninsula to Phillip Island was underway. Inquiries were made for suitable cables, and tests began, signalling the imminent connection to Melbourne's trunk line service.

Looking back at Rhyll's development, it's clear that the village's strategic position played a key role in its selection for the second telephone exchange on the island. From the early days of the telegraph line to the introduction of the telephone, Rhyll's telecommunication story mirrors the island's broader journey of progress. The persistence and foresight of the community helped pave the way for the connectivity we now

take for granted—a world where communication flows effortlessly and instantly.

Left: This telegram was sent in 1921 at 11.36am from Percy McFee in Rhyll to a bookmaker in Melbourne named Bert Cohen, via the Wonthaggi exchange with the message:

"Half each way Burberry, Coonara, Termelee" These 14 (?) words cost 4 shillings for the transmission. Percy received a confirmation 'Commission Received at 4pm that same day from Bert Cohen.



RHYLL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (RCA) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**10am Saturday 15 March 2025 Rhyll Hall**

Jim Kiley welcomed and introduced the Guest Speakers:

Rhyce Davis, Municipal Fire Prevention & Emergency Management Officer, Tim Anderson P.I. CFA and Liono Drazzi CFA Captain, and Justin Murray BCSC Community Resilience Officer

Rhyce held a map of the area surrounding Rhyll showing the vegetation assets and the urban interface. Rhyce stressed the need to be aware of weather patterns and the current ratings in the Fire Danger Period during the months of Nov-May each year. Also to be aware that Rhyll (and Phillip Island) is in the Central District which will relate to emergency warnings through the media. **To survive make a plan!** PICAL is an emergency location in Cowes. Other points of note:- it is our responsibility to keep our grounds and households safe by reducing fuel load, trim back over hanging branches, charge batteries during the day to ensure the emitted heat does not cause a fire, install and maintain Fire Detectors and adopt a Fire Plug; report to CFA if not visible or indicators are missing.

Attendance: As per list

Apologies: As per list

Minutes of the previous general meeting: Motion to confirm the 18 January 2025 Minutes Moved. J Kiley. Seconded: S Inness. Carried.

Business Arising:

Cruise Ships-\$6,500 raised

Drain at the end of Lock Rd- P Balfe is locating responsible authority

Potholes in Reid St- BCSC letter sent to residents-early days

Speed Limits on Dirt Roads- close to finalizing

Correspondence:

Outgoing: BCSC, Hall & Park, K&P Jones re-Reid St

Incoming: BCSC, Hall & Park, K&P Jones, Jansson Family re- converting Boat shed into a Maritime Museum showcasing John Jansson's collection of artefacts; discussions in progress.

Financial Report:

Treasurer's report provided by Judy Lawrence: Bank Balance in total-\$36,458.31.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report Moved: J Kiley. Seconded: K Parkinson. Carried.

General Business:

Brewery- not going ahead. The Foreshore, however, will be opening in August as the Rhyll Tavern

RCA Meeting with BCSC CEO- April 8

Rhyll Tennis Club- their Pickleball Project has seen a huge increase in membership. Trivia Night to be held March 22 will raise funds to paint the pickleball lines on both courts.

Arvo Tea: Last two events have had little response should move to quarterly events.

Rhyll Coast Action:

A successful Agapanthus Blitz held in February involving three extensive hedges facing the Northern Foreshore with 8 Green Bins filled supported by the residents. This will be an annual event supporting those who can no longer manage to do it.

Other Business:

Cheryl reported: 2 seats for the Southern Foreshore are expected to be installed soon.

Meeting Closed: 11.12am Next Meeting: Saturday 17 May 2025, 10am at the Rhyll Hall.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME

.....

ADDRESS

.....

EMAIL

.....

PHONE

.....

\$5.00 per year

Date

/

/

I would like to become a member of the Rhyll Community Association and agree to be bound the Rules of the Association.

Bank Details: Rhyll Community Association

BSB: 633 000

Account: 131 997 751

Signed:

Please return this form to the Rhyll General Store

PO Box 8144,

Rhyll 3923

Rhyll Community Association Inc

President Jim Kiley

Secretary Cheryl Overton

Treasurer Judy Lawrence

Committee members:

Sandra Inness

Carmen Bush

Carolyn May

John Kroon

Peter Balfe

Brian Morris

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