

RHYLL REPORTER

RCA Meeting

The next Rhyll
Community
Association **Meeting**
will be held at 10am
Saturday 19th July
2025
Rhyll Mechanics Hall
All residents welcome

RCA Masterplan

The RCA together with
the Rhyll Hall & Parks
Committee are in the
process of preparing a
MasterPlan for Rhyll.

This will set out our
goals for the future to
maintain our pleasant
lifestyle in Rhyll.

If you have anything you
would like to contribute
please email

Farewell to an icon...

Well known Rhyll
identity, John Jansson
passed away peacefully
on Sunday 25th of May.
John lived his entire life
in Rhyll and was loved
by all who knew him.
Read his story on page
4.



Update Hall Ramp

As mentioned at the recent RCA meeting, we received a
letter from CEO Bass Coast Shire, Greg Box in response
to our meeting and our
continued dissatisfaction with
the newly built Rhyll Ramp and
the inappropriately placed
disabled car park.

See page 6 to read the entire
letter.



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

Free in home demonstrations

NEW TM7 COMING JUNE

Nobbies Closed



The Nobbies Centre remains closed due an infrastructure incident on Friday 30 May.

An engineering investigation has been carried out to consider options for the building. Initial works will focus on ensuring the building structure is safe to enable access to the true attraction of this site – the boardwalks, the views and the blow hole.

At this stage, we expect initial works to be completed and access to the boardwalks restored by the **school holiday period**. We will also provide an update on the Nobbies Visitor Centre at this time.

Until then, the Nobbies Centre remains closed and the building, car park and boardwalks have been temporarily cordoned off to ensure the safety of the public and staff.

Senior's Exercise Parks

With our plan to purchase exercise equipment to be installed in Rhyll Park, there was a timely reminder of what benefits these parks offer - especially for seniors in Seniors E-News on line

[Seniors Exercise Parks | Seniors online](#)



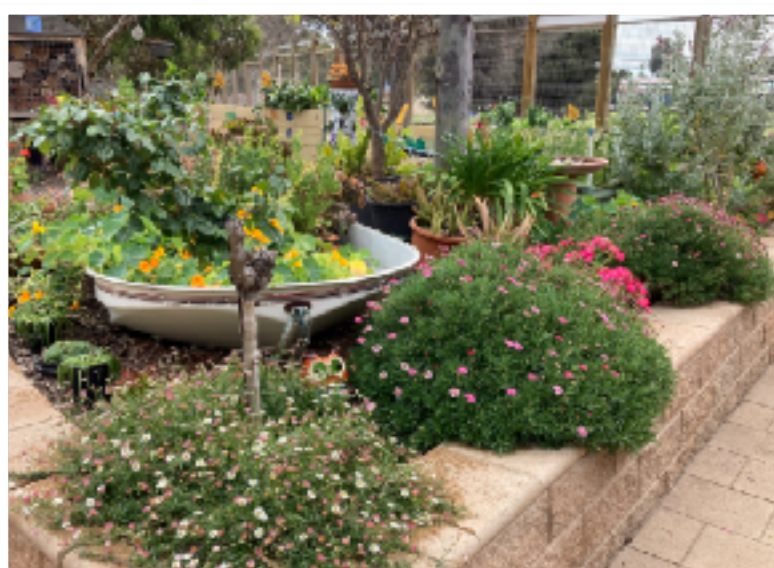
Our exercise equipment will attempt to cater for all levels of fitness from youngsters to the more mature among us!

Rhyll Community Garden Committee

There is still a position available if you would like to join the Rhyll Community Garden committee.

We are in the midst of creating a something beautiful in corner of the Rhyll Park in the South East corner (beach side of the tennis courts). This area is rarely used and could be made into something quite attractive. The garden design would be collaborate affair, with native, fresh produce and floral displays being included.

If you would like to join the Garden Committee please contact Judy (rhyllcoa@gmail.com)



Rhyll's Parking Problem

We are very fortunate in our small village to have the luxury of different eating places but with the soon to be open **Rhyll Tavern** there will the need for additional parking for customers.

When this problem is mentioned to 'outsiders' they can't believe that the massive boat ramp car park remains empty for such a huge percentage of the year especially after 5pm.

Is it about time attention was drawn to our parking problem?
An easy fix would be to make the ramp parking available to cars from 5pm to midnight?

Would that make a difference to 'boaties' ?

Let us know what you think?



Vale John Jansson

1/9/1948 - 25/5/2025

To most residents of Phillip Island—and especially those from the village of Rhyll—the name John Jansson is synonymous with local history, and in particular, our rich maritime past. But to reduce John to just a historian, even an exceptional one, is to miss the full measure of the man. John was born at Warley Hospital in Cowes on the 1st of September 1948, into one of Phillip Island's long-established families, descended from a proud line of mariners. His parents, Helen and Frank Jansson, instilled in him a deep connection to the sea and love of island life and community service. John had one sibling—his beloved younger brother, Raymond—who remained close to him throughout his life. John's early schooling was at Cowes State School when it was still in Thompson Avenue—on the site where the Cultural Centre stands today.

John went on to Wonthaggi Technical School, where a teacher was once asked if he had ever taught a genius. "Not quite," the teacher... replied, "but the closest was a fellow named John Jansson." It came as no surprise — John was awarded Dux every year he attended the school. For those of us who knew him, the title 'genius' may not have seemed to fit at first. He wore his intelligence lightly. You wouldn't know it from his modesty. But if someone in a conversation happened to get their facts wrong, John would simply smile—never correcting, unless asked—and then he'd quietly offer the truth, always gently, always without ego.

After finishing at Wonthaggi Technical School, John began his studies at Swinburne. After Swinburne, he went on to graduate from Melbourne University in 1971 with a degree in Civil Engineering. During his studies he worked part-time for the Shire of Dandenong, and after a brief stint at a tin mine in Ardlethan, New South Wales, John returned to Phillip Island. The outback could never hold him the way the Island did.

He was back on the Island by 1972, first working as a civil engineer with the Shire of Bass for a year, and then Phillip Island Shire, before going out on his own as a consultant engineer—a role he continued until his retirement. John's work left its mark on countless projects, including the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

While John was not widely known for his sporting prowess, he had his fair share of ventures into physical pursuits. In his younger days, he was a familiar figure swimming in the Rhyll Channel—often daily and even in the depths of winter, undeterred by the cold.

John's true passion—his life's calling—was history. Long before it became fashionable to preserve the past, John understood its value. In his twenties, when most young men chased parties and novelty, John was quietly capturing the disappearing corners of Phillip Island with his camera. He photographed historic homes, old ferries, weathered buildings—preserving stories before they were lost to time. This legacy of images, along with his remarkable collection of maritime artefacts, stands as a priceless gift to future generations.

Beyond the Island, John loved to travel. He especially enjoyed the Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart and many adventures including in the more remote areas of Australia, shared with Marion, his longtime companion and fellow explorer.

John's devotion to community was unmatched. His list of memberships and contributions reads like a who's who of the Island's organisations: the old Penguin Reserve Board, Young Farmers, the old Water Board, Jaycees, Landcare, Conservation Society, Friends of the Golden Cypress, Rhyll Hall and Parks Committee and Life Member of the National Trust, — and of course, the Rhyll Yacht Club and the Phillip Island Historical Society and Genealogical Society. He also received a Paul Harris Award from the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo, a fitting recognition of a lifetime of community service.

And then there were the boats. After purchasing the historic goods shed on the Rhyll foreshore from Charlie Richardson in 1975, John made his long-held dream of boatbuilding a reality. His first creation, the Swan, was just the beginning — one of many new builds and careful restorations that brought history back to life on the water.

John was also a passionate researcher and author, contributing to several notable publications on both maritime and local history. Of all his works, he was particularly proud of *First Home*, the magnificent book on the iconic Couta Boat. While his historical insights were invaluable, it was the meticulous rigging diagrams that truly bore his personal stamp—drawings informed by a skill he began honing as a teenager, building and rigging model boats. That quiet obsession never left him; he completed his final model boat just two years ago. Another major achievement was his painstaking compilation, over 15 years, of every recorded shipping movement in Western Port since records began—an extraordinary body of work that will become an essential resource for future researchers. Among his passion for research was genealogy. Over decades, John painstakingly traced not only his own family's lineage but also worked to produce a comprehensive Phillip Island family tree, reconnecting long-lost relatives and uncovering forgotten ties.

John's expertise was also sought beyond the local community. Over a number of years, he played a quiet but important role in assisting marine archaeologists from Flinders University in locating and identifying shipwreck remains off the coast of Phillip Island. His deep knowledge of the local coastline, tides, and historical shipping routes proved invaluable in piecing together the stories of vessels long lost to the sea. It was yet another example of the way John's quiet dedication and detailed research made a lasting impact in the field of maritime history.

John Jansson was a man of quiet brilliance, boundless curiosity, and deep love for this island and its stories. He leaves behind a legacy not just of photographs, artefacts, and books, but of finely crafted boats—each one a reflection of his skill, patience, and respect for tradition. His life was a generous gift to his community, and his contributions will continue to ripple through generations to come.

To lose John Jansson feels, quite simply, like the end of an era. His depth of knowledge, quiet integrity, and lifelong dedication to Phillip Island leaves a space that cannot be filled — only honoured. And in a moment of quiet symbolism, on the very morning John left us, a 120-year-old pear tree — long standing like a sentry opposite the Rhyll foreshore — finally fell. As if the landscape itself was marking his departure. John's legacy will live on in the stories he preserved, the boats he built, and in the hearts of all who knew him.



23 April 2025

Jim Kiley
President
Rhyll Community Association
Via email: rhyllcommunityassociation@outlook.com

Dear Jim

Rhyll Mechanics Hall

Thank you for your time on Tuesday, 8 April and follow up letter dated 12 April to discuss the Association's concerns regarding the Rhyll Mechanics Hall and other issues.

Regarding the access ramp, we understand some of the community would like to see the ramp removed and note the issues you have highlighted:

- The ramp significantly reduces car parking capacity and increases the risk of damage while parking.
- It does not provide access for all disabled people who visit the hall and makes it more difficult for able-bodied people to access the hall.
- It reduces the available flat area in front of the hall used for community events.
- It is an architectural concern, dominating and altering the view of our heritage building.

While we acknowledge the concerns raised, the ramp meets the objectives of the *Disability Discrimination Act* (DDA) both practically and functionally. Given the current financial constraints, Council will not be removing and replacing the ramp. However, we are committed to ensuring accessibility and will continue to explore other ways to improve the situation.

Council recognises the consultation process can be enhanced and is dedicated to ensuring more effective consultations in the future. Although Council has proposed working with the Rhyll Community Association to design landscaping that improves aesthetics and creates more flat areas for markets and other community events, we acknowledge your rejection of this offer in your letter dated 12 April 2025.

Should the Rhyll Community Association change their position and seek to proceed with this proposal, please advise Daniel Fokkens on Daniel.Fokkens@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Regarding the hall management arrangement, the annual maintenance budget for Community Asset Committees (CACs) is established under the adopted Council budget. For the 2025-26 financial year, officers have submitted a request for a slight

budget increase to account for rising maintenance costs. This request cannot be confirmed until the Council budget is adopted in June.

As discussed between Scott Stanley, Coordinator Property, and Gabrielle in March 2024, the remaining CACs were advised they had the option to resume direct management of their own venue bookings. At the time, Gabrielle was unsure whether this communication had been clearly received by the Committee and was going to further investigate. However, should the Committee wish to proceed, they can request to be removed from the central Bookable platform, allowing community members to contact the Committee directly to arrange bookings. If the Committee would like to explore this, Council officers can assist ensuring the appropriate steps are followed to support a smooth handover. Please contact Scott Stanley on scott.stanley@basscoast.vic.gov.au to discuss further.

Finally, regarding the Lock Road drainage outfall, I thank you for your feedback regarding the stormwater outlets leading to public beaches. We acknowledge this is not an ideal situation and appreciate you have raised this concern with Council for a couple of years.

Whilst Council's opinion is the issue does not trigger an intervention in this location; we are investigating work that can be done to improve the quality of stormwater at beach outlets more broadly across the municipality. Our teams are developing a program to be added to our broader stormwater management initiatives and prioritised across the municipality. Once the program is developed, we will submit a budget request for funding to implement which will now be for the 2026/27 financial year. If you would like to discuss this further, please reach out to Daniel Fokkens.

I appreciate your understanding as we navigate these issues together.

Yours sincerely



Greg Box
Chief Executive Officer

Ref: ID12981481

SUMMARY Minutes OF THE RCA General Meeting held at Rhyll Hall 17 May 25

40 residents registered with 10 apologies

Jim welcomed everyone and introduced Shane Dougherty to speak.

Reid St Rhyll Removal of Asphalt: Shane Dougherty spoke about the Reid St. residents' interaction with BCSC. They want more information and other options from Council. The Urban Road and Drainage Improvement Policy governing Special Charge Schemes is too narrow and inequitable. Shane presented their petition at the April Council meeting and followed up with questions. Council has responded by pausing all uptake of Asphalt in the Shire. (Refer 30 April Advertiser) Shane has questioned Council about the relationship of Reid St to adjoining streets, he is chasing council for an answer.

Items raised from the Previous General Meeting:

Meeting with BCSC CEO Greg Box at Rhyll: Coed of CEO's letter response attached

Sealing the Ferry Captain: A big thanks to D Parkinson, B Overton and J Kroon for cleaning and resealing this iconic sculpture. Thanks to the local paint store for the half-priced sealer.

Easter Garage Sale: 23 Sale participants with lots of visitors bargain hunting. Next one in 2027.

General Business:

Dog Off-Leash fenced area in Rhyll Park: RCA to put in a submission outlining Future Plans, current needs and scheduled events. Contact Engage Bass Coast or go to Drop-in session on Tuesday, 12-2pm at Berninnet.

Jim stated that a Master Plan of the Park will be discussed with key stakeholders and community input.

The Hall Ramp: dealt with in the CEO's letter.

Ray Jansson kindly donated his 2011 Manual Van to the RCA for use at events. Sponsorships will be invited to cover/offset costs. A big thanks to Ray and Pam for their generosity.

2025/6 Market dates: Dec 12, Jan 2 and 16.

Afternoon Tea in the Hall: Thursday 5th June 2-4pm **ACTION Notice to be posted at the General Store.**

Cash for Can Bins: money is being donated to the PI Hub total raised so far \$168.05 thanks to D Parkinson.

Rhyll Coast Action:

May 12 was a planting working bee to fill in the areas where female Pittosporum (they can be recognized by their bright orange berries) were removed. Residents will monitor and water.

Next working bee is Monday 9 June, 9-11am. For details contact rhyllcoastaction@gmail.com

Other Business:

RCA Website: All contact can be made through the new website: www.rhyllcoa.com.au

Newsletters, events and membership. **ACTION: To be added to letterhead and the Rhyll Reporter.**

Rhyll Tennis Club/Pickleball: M Walker reported that 6-12 players are attending the 3 sessions offered each week, some are also playing at other times. Because of the growing interest four

Pickleball courts are to be painted two side by side at each end of both courts, this will cost approx. \$20,000. Thanks to those who made the Trivia night successful. New members have donated their time and energy to refurbish the wooden benches, painted steps, donated the Banner and the artwork on it and other incidentals. The program is open to all. Last School Holidays we had a Kids Program which will be offered again. The courts are still available for tennis. The Club is a member of Tennis Victoria who have been very supportive. For details contact: rhylltennis@gmail.com

Next meeting: Saturday 19 July 2025 Rhyll Hall 10am



MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME

.....

ADDRESS

.....

EMAIL

.....

PHONE

.....

\$5.00 single \$10 family 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

Peter Balfe

Brian Morris

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