

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 Membership

The RCA will be issuing
invoices within the next
2 weeks. We are trying
to standardise our
membership year
however some new
members have paid their
subs already. If you have
received an invoice
which you feel is paid
please let me know by
email

rhyllcoa@gmail.com

Farewell to another Rhyll Identity

Rhyll is farewelling
another of its quiet
achievers, Mick
Toovey. Only weeks
after the community
gathered to honour
John Jansson, we now
find ourselves saying
goodbye to
another much-loved local. See page 5 for details of Mick's
life.



Reid Street Survey

Following the survey
completed by Reid Street
residents Bass Coast Shire
Council have reached a
decision on the dust
suppressant seal removal. A
meeting will be held late July
or early August between
Council and representatives
of the Reid Street residents
to discuss potential upgrade
options. Stay tuned for
developments!



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 Tavern TBA

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

High Tides

We have had some very high tides recently and with the



accompanying bad weather the beachside roads had a bit of a 'spring' cleaning. Thanks Sal for the photos.



Tidy Towns

Did you know that Rhyll was a winner in Category A - Beautification & Restoration in the TIDY TOWNS Keep Australia Beautiful in 1984?

Could we do it again?





Save the Date

Saturday 13th September for a fabulous meal at **Rhyll Hall in support of Refugees**

More details in next month's Rhyll Reporter

News around Rhyll

- The Rhyll Tennis Club received a grant from RSL for \$4850 to build a verandah on their existing club rooms.
- Bill Overton and David Parkinson have replaced the vandalised trees along the foreshore between Walton and Jansson Road. Hopefully they will survive. Could all residents in the vicinity keep their eyes open for any wilful destruction.



- Whale Cruises have commenced once again and depart daily from Rhyll. This is a marvellous tourist attraction so make sure you welcome all of our visitors. This also explains the cars parked along the foreshore from 8am until 1pm.



- You may have spotted this interesting vessel down at the Rhyll Jetty recently. Creator Samuel McLennan has hand built his raft entirely from rubbish and waste found on Tasmania's coastline and waterways. He has sailed from Tasmania on his way to Sydney and beyond, and is currently

docked in Rhyll to make some repairs to his plastic tarp from local marine waste before setting sail again. If you would like to know more about Samuel's intrepid journey you can find his story here: <https://projectinterrupt.com>



Rhyll Coast Action

Rhyll Coast Action will have a Working Bee Monday 14 July 2025, starting at 9:00 am and finishing at 11am with relaxing cuppa nearby.

We will be supplementing previous plantings at the Rhyll Northern Foreshore, just up from the Rhyll Yacht Club. Best parking is at the end of Jansson Rd.

As well as planting, we will do some weed control and maintenance of the existing plants.

Please bring your favourite weeding tools, and gloves. Dress according to the weather conditions, expect cold and wind, we could shelter if raining. The plantings in this area have been an ongoing project which needs support to ensure healthy long-lasting growth.

Please contact rhyllcoastaction@gmail.com if you would like to come along.



Take off Weight Naturally

A reminder that the TOWN group meets every Thursday from 8.45am to 11.00am at the Rhyll Mechanics Hall. New Members always welcome. Contact Vincent Vale 0414 709 066 or Lillian Heflingers 0438 595 588 for further details.

Adopt a Hydrant

Further to our article about our local fire hydrants in the April Rhyll Reporter, we are pleased to report that Westernport Water have installed new water hydrants in Rhyll last week on Beach and Lock Roads. They are upright like a roadside marker but located off the road with red and blue reflectors.



Nobbies Boardwalks re-open

Just in time for the school holidays the boardwalks and car parks are now open for the public. Please follow the signage directions as conditions may change. Sadly engineers have confirmed that it is not safe to re-open the building



Vale Mick Toovey

1/9/1948 - 28/6/2025

By Pamela Rothfield

Rhyll is farewelling another of its quiet achievers. Only weeks after the community gathered to honour John Jansson, we now find ourselves saying goodbye to another much-loved local.

Michael John Toovey—Mike or Mick, depending on who was calling—was born on Phillip Island on 2nd November 1946, and from that moment on, the Island had a firm grip on his heart. He was the second son of Winnie and Ossie Toovey, growing up alongside his older brother Barry, who sadly passed away in 2021. The Toovey boys were part of a generation that truly knew every inch of the Island—the bush tracks, the beaches, the neighbours.

Mike started school at Cowes Primary, then went on to Wonthaggi Tech, where he began developing the hands-on skills that would guide his working life. He started out with one of the Island's local engineering businesses before heading up to Camberwell to begin a toolmaking apprenticeship—a move that took him away from home but gave him a solid trade and broader perspective.

Then came 1966. At just 20 years old, Mike was conscripted and sent to Vietnam. He served as an engineer, doing the hard and dangerous work that so many of his generation were called upon to do. Like many veterans, he didn't speak often about those years, but his service shaped him. He returned home with a quiet strength, a practical way of approaching life, and a deep appreciation for the simple things.

Back in civilian life, Mike turned his hand to all sorts of jobs. He drove trucks around Melbourne, worked for Lyle Williams at the San Remo Hotel, and then took on management of the Vaucluse Hotel in Richmond. It was there, behind the bar and among the regulars, that Mike met Jan, the woman who would become his wife.

Mike and Jan were married in March 1980, and soon after welcomed two beautiful daughters—Sally in 1982, and Fiona in 1984. The same year that Fiona was born, they took on the running of the Newhaven Caravan Park, bringing the young family back to the Island Mike loved so much. In 1996, they became the proud owners of the Boomerang Caravan Park in Cowes—a big undertaking, but one they embraced together.

Mike was always someone who worked hard but never took himself too seriously. He loved a good chat, a bit of banter, and being around people. And when retirement came, he made the most of it. He enjoyed his golf, cast a line now and then with his fishing mates, and—true to form—found new ways to stay involved in his community.

For years, Mike volunteered at the Phillip Island Football Club, manning the bar with his good mate Charlie Guy and donning the white coat as goal umpire for the reserves each Saturday. It became a rhythm he looked forward to—being part of something, sharing laughs, waving the flags with pride.

Even after Jan passed, Mike, despite his grief, continued to find ways to connect, to contribute, and to enjoy life. And in his later years, it was heartwarming to see him find such gentle companionship with Marion. The two shared a lovely chapter together—full of new memories, affection, and quiet happiness.

Mike's was a life well lived—full of stories, friendships, family, and community. Apart from his northern winter escapes, he never strayed too far from the Island that raised him, and he gave back to it in so many ways, often without fuss or fanfare. He had dry wit, a dependable nature, and a deep love for Rhyll and the broader Phillip Island community.

Mike's passing is a loss deeply felt. He was one of those people who helped hold a place together—not with grand gestures, but with a steady presence, a friendly nod, and always a helping hand.

His Friday night banter at the Angling Club will be sorely missed - as will his cheeky humour, his many stories, and the way he just *belonged* here.

Rhyll is indeed farewelling another of its quiet achievers, but Mike's warmth and friendship will long be remembered.





A Glimpse of Rhyll

By Pamela Rothfield, Phillip Island & District Historical Society

It's easy to forget just how lively and close-knit Rhyll was a hundred years ago—until you dive into the pages of old newspapers, where community life was documented with affection, humour, and the occasional drama.

Back in January 1925, the township gathered to celebrate the grand reopening of the cherished Rhyll Hall, which had just been enlarged. It was a night to remember—residents from Cowes, Ventnor and Newhaven joined in, along with a smattering of visitors from farther afield (including, quite cheekily, a bidder claiming to represent Woolloomooloo!). A box of chocolates donated by Mrs. Albert Smith was auctioned off in a spirited Dutch auction led by Mr. Edgar, raising over £10—an impressive feat for confectionery! The hall echoed with laughter, live music from the Phillip Island Orchestra, and generous donations—including a quiet £2/2/- from anonymous well-wishers to help with supper costs. Rhyll's own Percy McFee made the winning bid and gave thanks on behalf of the community, noting that the proceeds had greatly reduced the hall's debt.

Later that year, the hall again played host to a joyful occasion—the marriage of Miss Rose Richardson of Rhyll to Mr. Friedolf Osterland of Stony Point. A decorative arch with a white bell overhead adorned the entry and the bride wore a beautiful ivory crepe de chine gown and veil featuring orange blossom. The reception was held at the bride's family home—affectionately known today as Richardson's Cottage.



Mr. Friedolf Osterland & Miss Rose Richardson on their wedding day



Richardson Cottage

Community spirit extended to the little Rhyll State School, also located in the Rhyll Hall. In July, a farewell was held for much-loved teacher Miss Downey, who was presented with a gold Grecian-key bracelet by Cr. McIlwraith and the school community. She spoke fondly of her time in Rhyll, praising the children and wishing the new teacher, Miss Annie Green, all the best. Meanwhile, Miss Green was farewelled from her previous post at Daylesford with an ornamental clock and a xylonite clothes brush—a rather stylish going-away gift for the times.

Also in the month of July, Rhyll residents were treated to a rare sight: a pair of whales cruising into the bay. They surfaced dramatically, evoking memories of the 'J' class submarines which were gifted to the Australian Navy in 1919 and were stationed at Flinders Naval Base until about 1923.

But not everything in 1925 was sweetness and light. In February, two unfortunate horses belonging to Mr. Octavius Boys were shot after wandering onto public roads—one was not expected to survive.

These snippets from 1925 remind us that even in a tiny coastal village, there was always something happening—be it a farewell at the school, a wedding in the hall, or whales in the bay. Rhyll has always had a heart that beats with community spirit.



Rhyll Hall



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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