

RHYLL REPORTER

RCA Meeting

The next Rhyll Community Association **Meeting** will be held at 10am

Saturday 20th
September 2025

Rhyll Mechanics Hall

All residents welcome
The AGM will also be held at this meeting



Rhyll Market Dates

The Rhyll Twilight Market Stall Applications are now open through our website rhyllcoa.com.au

Dates are:

Friday 12th December

Friday 2nd January

Friday 16th January

Rhyll Mechanics Hall 'rehabilitation'

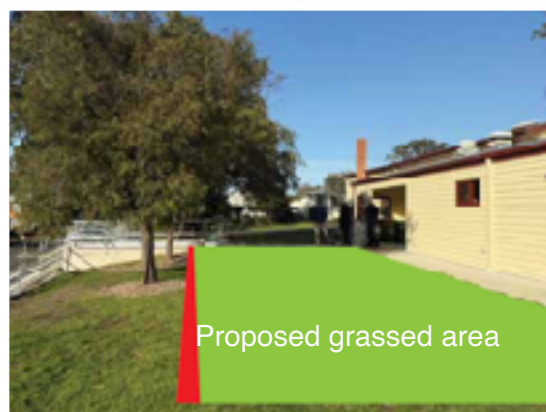
It's been a productive time for our president and committee over the last few weeks in regards to the parking and power issues at the Rhyll Hall.

For those of you not in the loop.... With the renovation of the Hall and the carpark, we subsequently lost 5 car parks and access to some of our power for our food vendors at the Twilight Markets. We also lost our lovely beer garden under the trees due to the inclination that was created.

Much has been discussed with BCSC and we can now see light at the end of the tunnel.

Firstly, we are hoping to install 4 car parks in front of the hall off Lock Road. Next we have a landscape plan provided by BCSC which included levelling out the area where our beer garden was situated. And finally, upgrading power to the rotunda whereby we will no longer need to hire a noisy generator for your markets.

The RCA has applied for a grant for the power upgrade, so fingers crossed.



Thanks must go to President Jim Kiley and Peter Balfe who both put in hours of work for all of our benefit.

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

Suggested Planting along side the newly levelled area.



Dine in Rhyll for Refugees

Saturday 13th September at 7pm at Rhyll Hall for a fabulous meal with music by Marty Box, and guest speakers. All profits are donated to Rural Australians for Refugees.

Tickets are \$43 byo

For bookings www.trybooking.com/DECZB



Rhyll Hall Bookings

As noted in the Rhyll Community Association Minutes for July, from 1st September 2025 bookings and maintenance for the Rhyll Hall will be handled by the Rhyll Hall and Parks Committee. The booking officer is Sandra Inness and bookings can be made by calling 0491 641 331.

Rhyll Coast Action Group

Rhyll Coast Action had a fabulous morning, Monday August 11 on the northern foreshore planting 40 plants on both sides of the Walton St area.

Thanks to all 6 volunteers who were involved and to those others who support us.

For details about our next working bee please contact rhyllcoastaction@gmail.com always please to see new faces.

Rhyll Tennis Club with Pickleball.

For Fun & Fitness 😊

The Rhyll Tennis Courts are situated in the leafy Rhyll Park which has covered BBQ Facilities, a playground, public amenities, and parking. Casual Court Hire is available through the Rhyll General Store, corner Lock Road and Walton Street, opposite the Tennis Courts. Phone no. 5907 6796

We are now offering Pickleball social sessions: 9.30-11.30am Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday each week (weather permitting).

Pickleball originated in California in the 1960s and melds tennis, badminton and table tennis into a racquet sport that combines exercise with intergenerational fun and friendship, just like a good day at the beach. The racquet is like but larger than a table tennis bat; the court is the size of a badminton court; the ball is plastic with aerodynamic holes the size of a tennis ball and the scoring..... well, that's unique!



For membership details please contact: rhylltennis@gmail.com

Membership of Rhyll Community Association

With membership fees now being due (please check your emails for Invoices if you have not already paid!) we thought it was timely to remind everyone of the benefits of being an active member of YOUR local association.

The Association is instrumental in providing a number of community activities, including producing this newsletter, Christmas in the Park, the monthly afternoon tea at the Hall, the Bi-annual Easter Garage Sales and Twilight Markets.

Our real strength though, lay in our numbers. Many of you will remember in recent times we were able to circumvent a BCSC plan to put a bike path through the park and down the footpath in Lock Road. Through the hard work of some of our Committee members, and the number of community members that met and protested both the idea and the lack of consultation, we were able to reverse that decision, and come up with an alternative that met everyone's needs.

If you know of anyone who is not yet a member, please encourage them to join (for less than the cost of a cup of coffee!)

Reid Street road surface update



It's been a positive response from Bass Coast Shire Council in relation to the 'rehabilitation' of Reid Street, an a perfect example of what can be achieved with 'sensible persistence' by residents.

The Reid Street residents, Shane Dougherty together with Fran Dougherty (not related) have put in a huge amount of work with both residents and the BCSC.

Shane and Fran had a meeting last Wednesday which provided an overview of the council's plans regarding the surface removal project affecting all seven streets originally outlined.

Shane and Fran were shown a draft site update and a forthcoming letter to be sent to impacted residents, outlining three surface options: a) Gravel, b) Surface Replacement in Kind, and c) Surface Upgrade, each with indicative cost ranges based on street frontages.

Next steps include awaiting the council's letter within four weeks, after which residents will be asked to sign a petition for accurate costings for Option B. The petition requires signatures from 100% of owners, and the process will be submitted to the council for consideration, aimed for the October meeting. Signing the petition does not commit residents financially; it is simply a request for firm pricing.

Once detailed pricing is received, all owners must agree to commit to their individual costs for the project to proceed. The council will maintain the asphalt surface with no ongoing costs to owners and will consider traffic data for determining their financial contribution to the replacement. Initial estimates suggest each owner's cost for Option B could range from \$3,000 to \$10,000, subject to council contributions and detailed discussions post-petition.

Fire Safety at home e-learning



The Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) have seen a recent spike in home fires. 62% of people who die in preventable home fires have a disability, and 36% are aged 65 or older.

A free 40 minute e-learning module called '[Prevent Detect Escape - home fire safety for people at higher risk](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/e-learning)' is designed to help identify home fire risks and how to manage them.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/e-learning>

Our General Store

By Pamela Rothfield

The story of the Rhyll Store begins in 1902 when fisherman John “Jack” Walton constructed a home on the property for himself and his wife, Elizabeth. Jack's father, George Walton, had acquired the 8-acre plot back in 1870. Jack's brother, Bill, who was married to Elizabeth's sister, also built a house on the land. The two brothers were inseparable.

Tragically, Jack died in 1913 from double pneumonia, leaving Elizabeth to continue living on the property, with their adopted son, Reg who was eight years old. Around 1916, Richard Alphonse Grayden from Newhaven, used the site to construct his passenger vessel, *Edith Grayden* — promoted at the time as being the largest motor-sailing boat in Western Port, licensed to carry 40 passengers. [Richard is widely recognised as being the driving force in advocating for the construction of the first Phillip Island bridge]



By about 1919, Jack's nephew, Stan Walton (Bill's son), built the first general store alongside Elizabeth's residence, laying the foundations for what would become a long-standing hub of Rhyll life. At the time the entire population of Rhyll according to the census was 85 people. That same year, telegraph services came to Rhyll for the first time, ending the need for residents to travel to Cowes to send messages. With the

arrival of the telegraph, the Post Office - first established in September 1889 in Captain Lock's home on what is now Zelma Drive - was relocated from the McFee home on the Rhyll-Newhaven Road to Stan's store. Stan was appointed Postmaster.

Four years later the tiny village gained its first telephone exchange, also operating from the Rhyll Store. The exchange was open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an extra fee charged for calls outside those hours.

In the early days, Rhyll was a tiny hamlet where neighbours relied as much on each other as on any shop. Most families kept a few chooks for eggs, and many had a "house cow" to provide milk and cream. Vegetable gardens were common, often sprawling across back fences, and fruit trees — apples, plums, quinces, lemons and figs — were part of almost every yard. What one household didn't have, another would share, and bartering was as natural as breathing.

In this setting, the need for a fully-fledged general store simply didn't exist. The little shop in Rhyll stocked only the most basic necessities — the items you couldn't grow, make, or trade for locally. A tin of golden syrup, a packet of tea, matches, a bar of soap, a twist of tobacco, or a jar of boiled lollies might be reason enough to wander in. Kerosene for lamps was kept out the back, along with nails, twine, and other odds and ends a household might suddenly need. Everything else came from Cowes on a planned trip, or from a neighbour making the 8kms trek into 'town'.



The store's role was less about replacing home production and more about filling the small gaps in village life, while doubling as the place where news, mail, and the occasional treat could be found. In many ways, it was as much a social stop as it was a place of trade.

As motorcars became a more common sight on the island, the Rhyll General Store adapted to meet the needs of a changing era. A petrol pump was installed out the front, allowing locals and visitors to fill their tanks without making the journey into Cowes. For many years, it was the only place in Rhyll to buy fuel, and it became a regular stop for fishermen, tradesmen, and holidaymakers arriving by road.

For the schoolchildren who attended lessons in the Rhyll Mechanic Institute across the road, the store was still a place of fascination. After school, they might cross over the dirt road with a penny or two to buy a twist of sweets in a paper bag, or just to peer at the jars of treats lined up on the counter. Over the years, consecutive storekeepers have doubled as Postmasters, so there has always been a steady trickle of people collecting mail or sending a telegram, and a quick chat across the counter was often as valuable as the item they came to buy.

The store remained a centre of village life for decades and was rebuilt by the Arnold family in 1988.

From its beginnings as a modest outpost supplying the bare necessities, through more than a century of serving the local community under a succession of storekeepers, the Rhyll General Store has always been at the heart of the village. Today, it remains a place where locals and visitors alike gather for a chat and a bite to eat - and the hamburgers served up by current owners Nick and Vyshu have quickly earned a reputation as some of the best around.

Have you considered joining the Phillip Island & District Historical Society?

Did you know that the Phillip Island & District Historical Society relies almost entirely on the support of its members to continue its important work? For just \$30 a year—that's only 57 cents per week — the Society preserves and protects the stories, artefacts, and sites that make our island unique. Email j.gittus43@gmail.com for details



Committee Nomination Form



If you are interested in being on the Rhyll Community Association Committee please complete the form below.

Please provide details of your experience, knowledge and interest in the Community and any other details you feel are relevant. Expressions of Interest are to be submitted at least 7 days prior to RCA AGM - to the Secretary, Rhyll Community Association. All Committee members will be required to obtain a Working with Children Check, through the Rhyll Community Association at no cost.

Rhyll Community Association
Email: cheryl.overton@bigpond.com.au
ABN 38801779089

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

Community Committee Experience:

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Particular interest in the Community:

--

Skills/Knowledge/expertise:

--

Committee Members are expected to:

1. Be a paid up member of the Rhyll Community Association
2. Contribute to the running of RCA
3. Should live in Rhyll
4. Assist with events (ie Cruise Ship Arrivals, Rhyll Markets)
5. Attend meeting when possible
6. Offer ideas and suggestions

Signed	Date
.....	



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Available on our website <http://rhyllcoa.com.au>

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.

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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