

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



Rhyll Community Association AGM

The Rhyll Community Association is holding their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 20th September, at which time all positions on the Committee are vacated and elections held for the Office Bearers. There are also a number of general committee member positions available. If you would like to nominate yourself for a position, or know of someone that you would like to encourage to be on the committee, the nomination form is attached at the end of this newsletter. It would be great to see a big turn out for our meeting!

Rhyll Tavern

Many people have been waiting with anticipation for the re-opening of the restaurant under the new management and branding as the Rhyll

Tavern. The sign in the window over the Winter months indicated that it would be re-opened in August - September. Work has certainly been progressing over the past few weeks, and word has it that an anticipated opening date is now more likely to be late November or early December. We will keep you informed as definite dates are known.



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

Rhyll Coast Action Group

On Monday September 8, seven volunteers planted most of the remaining plants.

We worked in areas on both sides off Walton St and then back to the area worked on last month, removing several thistle rosettes, Red Hot Pokers and Agapanthus clumps. Pictures of the day include Peter Balfe Rhyll Coast Action Secretary.



Looking ahead to 2026, it is likely that we will continue our working bees on the second Monday of the month starting with February so that we can begin with our Agapanthus Blitz which was very successful earlier this year. For details about our next working bee Monday October 13 please email: rhyllcoastaction@gmail.com



Pink Ribbon Fundraiser

In previous years we have held a Pink Ribbon Picnic in the Park to raise funds for the National

Breast Cancer Foundation. I am grateful to the locals that supported us and we succeeded in raising well needed funds. This year I will be holding a series of smaller High Tea events in my home which I hope will also be successful in raising funds for this worthy cause. The first of these will be held on Sunday 28th September at 1pm, with the next being held Saturday 25th October and possibly November, date TBC. Numbers are limited for each event so please contact Carolyn for details on 0409 252 099 or email carolyn.may87@gmail.com.

Winter goes out with a Bang!



This year Winter did not slip out quietly but with a ferocity thankfully not often seen here, leaving a swathe of destruction in its wake. One of the casualties of the storm was the beautiful yacht, the 'Isla Jane', which broke its moorings on the night of 29th August. It became quite an attraction and many people watched with interest as it was manoeuvred back into the water over the following days. Fortunately, it suffered only relatively minor damage, and was back out in the bay in a matter of days.

Pamela Rothfield has contributed the following story regarding Garry Walton, the owner of the 'Isla Jane'.

Garry Walton - A living Link to Rhyll's Past

When a fierce storm recently tore through Rhyll a week or so ago and wrenched Garry Walton's 49-foot yacht, 'Isla Jane' from its moorings, locals felt genuine sympathy. The ferocity of the storm was telling - the mooring chain was in near-new condition and the ground tackle had been only recently inspected and certified, yet the yacht still broke free and ended up wedged against the Rhyll jetty.

In the difficult days that followed, Garry was deeply moved by the offers of help and support from the local community. Neighbours rallied to his side, and he was especially touched by the simple but thoughtful gesture of a lady who arrived at the foreshore with a box of chocolates.

Garry is no ordinary sailor. An expert mariner, it's not unusual to see him sailing single-handedly up and down Australia's east coast, or steering his vessel across the Strait to Tasmania. His life on the water began long before he took to yachting—he spent several years in the Royal Australian Navy, serving in the Vietnam War. Returning to Phillip Island in 1976, he soon turned to shark fishing in Bass Strait. From 1977 onwards, that demanding pursuit became his livelihood for much of his working life, cementing his reputation as a man of the sea.

Garry carries not only the Walton name but also the weight of a remarkable family story. His great - great - great grandfather, William Woods, a labourer with a shadow hanging over him, fled his English village in 1839 under threat of a sheep-stealing charge. Taking his family to Guernsey, he reinvented himself under his mother's maiden name—Waltham—clumsily recorded as Walton.

It was George, Garry's G. G. Grandfather, who turned this fresh start into a legacy. After his father's death on Guernsey, George's mother returned the family to England. George worked

first as a fisherman on the treacherous Dogger Bank and trained as a wheelwright before striking out for Australia. At just 20, he landed in Geelong in 1852, retaining the Walton surname that his father had assumed.

There he met Harriet Humphrey, another recent immigrant, and within months they married. The couple endured hardship early on—losing their first child to dysentery in Mornington—but George's determination never faltered. By 1870 he had brought Harriet and their growing family to Phillip Island, purchasing eight acres in what is now Walton Street, Rhyll.

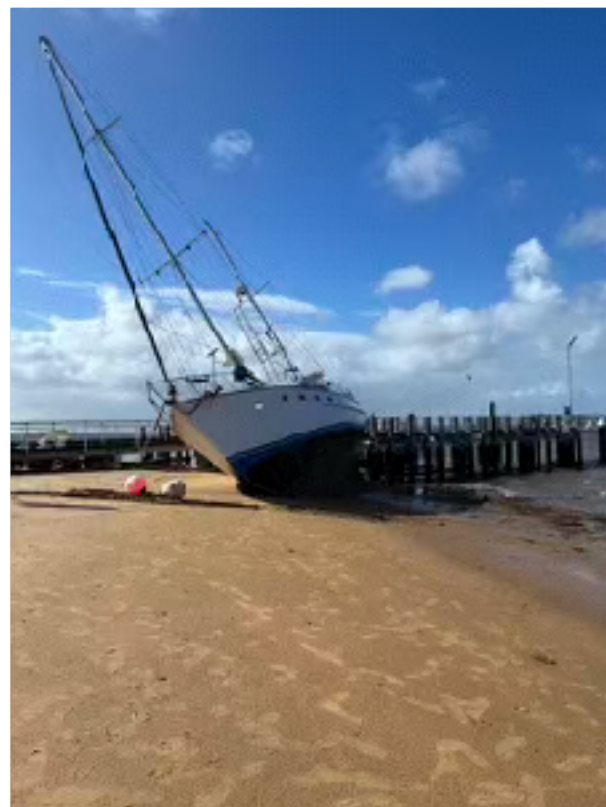
George became Phillip Island's first brick-maker, discovering clay on his land and pressing his children (and their friends) into service, barefoot, to tread the wet earth for brickmaking. He built kilns, produced lime from seashells gathered at low tide, and supplied bricks that still survive today in Island chimneys and fireplaces. Alongside building, he fished the local waters—a tradition several of his sons continued.

George and Harriet raised ten children, their descendants still shaping Island life. One son, James Woods Walton, carried the original Woods surname back into use, linking even more directly to his bold and somewhat infamous, ancestor.

George passed away at his Rhyll home in 1912, but the Walton name remained firmly woven into the Phillip Island and especially Rhyll community. Over a century later, Garry stands as the living embodiment of that heritage—a man whose life on the water and ties to Rhyll echo the resilience, enterprise, and restless spirit of those who came before him.

And just as great great grandfather, George once relied on the strength and support of family and neighbours, Garry, too, has found that same enduring spirit. The storm may have tested his yacht, but it also shone a light on something stronger—the wonderful community we have in Rhyll, where care, kindness, and neighbourliness are as much a part of the landscape as the sea itself.

[If you enjoyed this story - why not join the Phillip Island & District Historical Society, which is bursting with stories, still to be discovered - only \$30 per year! 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.overtor@bigpond.com.au
ABN 38801779089

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

Community Committee Experience:

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Particular interest in the Community:

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Skills/Knowledge/expertise:

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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
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MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

NAME

.....

ADDRESS

.....

EMAIL

.....

PHONE

.....

\$5.00 single \$10 family per year

Date / /

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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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