

RHYLL REPORTER

RCA Meeting

The next Rhyll Community Association **Meeting** will be held at 10am
Saturday 15th
November 2025
Rhyll Mechanics Hall
All residents welcome



Rhyll Hall & Park

The **Rhyll Hall & Park AGM** next week at Rhyll Hall at **4pm** on Monday 20th October. All welcome



Grant Success!

The Rhyll Community Association has been successful in receiving a \$5,000 grant from The Bass Coast Shire for the supply and installation of additional power to the Rhyll Hall and Park.

This will eliminate the need to hire a generator when we hold our Rhyll Twilight Markets.

The total cost of the power upgrade is \$7810, to which the Rhyll Community Association will contribute \$2810.

So you will see workers in the Rhyll Park shortly, busily installing our new power!



Thanks Bass Coast Shire!

Beware of idle gossip....

In a disappointing turn of events, a valuable Rhyll resident has had his reputation besmirched recently, when an anonymous resident decided to jump to conclusions regarding some dislodged branches on Beach Road. After a very high wind event, the resident (without proof) reported to the BCSC that Rhyll resident Frank Maiolo removed trees in front of his property. This prompted the BCSC to investigate the incident.

Thankfully BCSC did a thorough investigation and found the activity was a necessary clean-up in response to severe weather, and Frank did absolutely nothing untoward.

The email from the BCSC together with a statement from Frank is on page 4

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

Reid Street Surface Update

By Shane Dougherty

Council officers have provided the new petition template for residents to complete and submit to council. This petition, as reported earlier, will be a request for costings on a new primer seal to be provided to residents for their consideration and then further steps.

The lead petitioner (Shane) will liaise with all Reid Street owners in an effort to meet the November council meeting timeline for submission.

World Vision

The Art & Craft and Devonshire Tea held by the Phillip Island World Vision club was a fabulous success.

President Lynne Kharanda would like to thank those who donated pieces of art and craft for sale, together with the people who donated ingredients for Devonshire Teas and cost of hall hire. Your generosity is appreciated.

Our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful Friends who came to help us over the weekend. Our thanks to Sandy and the Hall Committee, for your assistance in negotiating the hall hire.

We also thank Art Society of Phillip Island Region (ASPIR), particularly Gay Mosby and Shirley Collins, who arranged for us to borrow table easels and gave us so much help over the weekend.

The event was a resounding success, and hopefully we will see more like it in the future.



You're invited to
Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary's
Gala Dinner

Friday, 21 November 2025 @ 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Phillip Island Winery
Berrys Beach Rd, Ventnor.

Tickets \$100 per head

Enjoy a great 3 course dinner in beautiful surroundings.

Drinks at bar prices.

Music by Tim O'Brien

PURCHASE EVENT
TICKETS HERE



1st prize: Watercolour by David Taylor,
Internationally renowned local artist (pictured)

2nd prize: Ramada accommodation voucher

3rd prize: Penfolds Presentation Port

4th prize: Go-Anywhere Weber BBQ.

Raffle will be drawn at 10pm on the night!

PURCHASE RAFFLE
TICKETS HERE



Funds raised will provide medical equipment
for your Phillip Island Community Hospital.
Enquiries contact Louanne: 0421 078 303



To all my friends in Rhyll,

Please read the email below and hope this clears my name of all the rubbish rumours spread over the past couple of weeks.

After discussing the issue with the Shire representatives, I have instructed my solicitors to stop the FOI request to identify the false accuser. I know that many of you know who it was, but I don't want to know it unless he or she has the guts to send me an apology in writing now that the facts are known.

If you know who it was, then please make them aware of how such a stupid and cowardly act can cause ill will in our close nit and otherwise beautiful community.

Frank Maiolo
+61 409 427 346

From: Ross Baum <Ross.Baum@basscoast.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 11:32 AM
To: frank@maiolo.co <frank@maiolo.co>
Subject: Trees Down after High Wind Event

Dear Frank,

Please be advised of the findings concerning Council Request **REQ2025-038682**, which reported the cutting and dumping of trees on **Beach Road, Rhyll**.

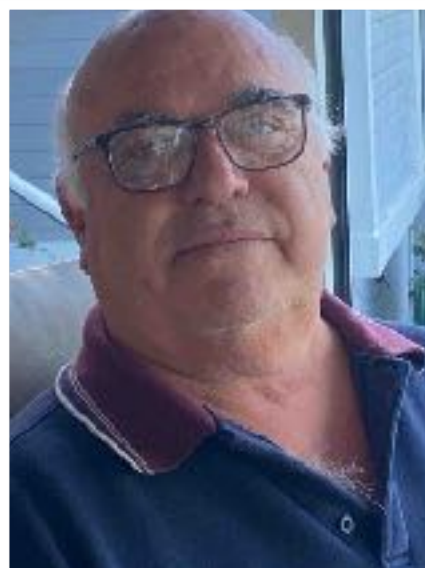
The incident occurred following a recent **high wind event** in the area. After a thorough review, Council has officially **determined that no illegal activity was involved** in the felling of these trees.

The activity has been identified as a necessary clean-up response to the severe weather.

Should you require any further clarification or detailed documentation, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ross BAUM
Community Safety Officer
Bass Coast Shire Council



From Frank Maiolo



What: Come & Try Pickleball for those with
HEARING IMPAIRMENT i

When: 22nd October 2025; 10:30 - 12:00

Where: Rhyll Tennis Courts, Lock Rd, RHYLL

Cost: Gold coin donation

Register: rhylltennis@gmail.com

More info: [https://play.tennis.com.au/
rhylltennisclub](https://play.tennis.com.au/rhylltennisclub) , look under events:

Henry Sharp – The Man Behind Wollomai's Melbourne Cup Win

By Pam Rothfield

Walk through the quiet paths of the Phillip Island Cemetery at Rhyll, and you'll find a modest headstone bearing the name Henry Sharp. Few visitors would guess that this unassuming man once played a small but fascinating role in a dramatic chapter in early Melbourne Cup history.

Henry Sharp was born in Antrim, Northern Ireland, in 1834, the son of Thomas Sharp, a policeman, and Margaret Adams. He married Anne Dixon in Dublin in 1863, and soon after the young couple joined the wave of emigrants seeking opportunity in the colonies. They arrived in Australia around 1865, settling first in Queensland for seven years before moving south to Victoria.



By the early 1870s, Henry had found employment on Phillip Island with fellow countryman John Cleeland, one of the island's most prominent landholders. Cleeland had wide-ranging interests — sheep, Angora goats, Anchor ponies, and racehorses — and placed great trust in his capable farm manager. Henry oversaw operations at Middle Farm, a property that would later become part of the island's pastoral story.

In 1875, Cleeland entered his prized horse, Wollomai, in the greatest race of the southern hemisphere - the Melbourne Cup - but curiously, he didn't do so under his own name. Instead, the entry form bore the name of his farm manager: Henry Sharp.

At first glance, it seemed baffling. But there was more to the story.

In the mid-1870s, Melbourne's racing world was not as pure as the sport's lofty reputation suggested. Whispers of corruption, bribery, and race-fixing circulated through the grandstands and public houses. Wagering syndicates manipulated results, and a network of "insiders" was said to influence everything from handicaps to starts.

Cleeland, proprietor of the Albion Hotel in Melbourne, knew the racing world intimately — and he knew who could make or break a race. One man in particular concerned him: George Watson, the celebrated "Prince of Starters".

Watson, the proprietor of Cobb & Co, ran his business right next door to Cleeland's hotel. He was both race starter and a steward with the Victorian Turf Club, the organisation that would later become the VRC. In those days, before starting gates,

Watson would ride back and forth in front of the horses, flag in hand, balancing judgment and authority before dropping it to send the field away. A flick of that flag could mean triumph or disaster.

There were other reasons for Cleeland's unease, and he wasn't taking chances. News had recently spread of a foiled attempt to derail a train from Geelong, one that had been carrying the Derby favourite, *Maid of All Work*, to the Flemington course. The atmosphere around racing had grown poisonous — a world of unsavoury elements where sabotage was not beyond imagination.

And so, when the nominations for the 1875 Melbourne Cup were filed, the name of an unknown, Henry Sharp, appeared as owner of *Wollomai*.

It was Tuesday, 9 November 1875 — the first Melbourne Cup ever held on a Tuesday, and a public holiday declared for the Prince of Wales' birthday. Flemington was packed, the crowd estimated at 70,000, the air thick with excitement and the smell of damp grass. The *Argus* reported the ladies "resplendent in silk, lilac, pearl grey, and light blue," though the stands were so overcrowded that several fainted in the heat.

When the flag fell, *Wollomai* surged forward with power and purpose, silencing doubters who had dismissed him as overweight and underworked. In two miles of thunder and turf, the Phillip Island-bred horse ran the race of his life, winning by two lengths at odds of 16 to 1.

Henry Sharp's name appeared in every newspaper the next morning as the owner of the Melbourne Cup winner. But those in the know understood the truth — that the quiet farm manager from Phillip Island had lent his name to protect a secret and to safeguard a victory.

After the win, it became known that the horse belonged to Cleeland, who, delighted with the result, rewarded his trainer Steve Moon and jockey Bob Batty with £1,000 each — an extraordinary sum at the time. And while history doesn't record Henry's share of the spoils, his circumstances soon improved.

It was not long before Henry and Anne had purchased two acres in Newhaven, and shortly thereafter Henry was running his own chicory farm on seventy-seven acres at the corner of Coghlan Road and the Phillip Island Tourist Road.

Henry and Anne had no children of their own, but their ties to the local community were strong. The rhythms of farm life replaced the glamour of racing, and the man who had once stood quietly behind a Melbourne Cup triumph lived out his years on the island he loved.



Henry Sharp died on 30 March 1909, aged 74, and was buried in the Phillip Island Cemetery.

Today, Henry's grave gives no hint of the drama in which he once played a part. Yet for one brief, glittering moment in 1875, his name stood at the heart of Australia's greatest race - not as a jockey, trainer, or punter, but as a shield for a cautious, calculating owner navigating a sport awash with ambition, intrigue, and risk.

Henry Sharp — the man behind Wollomai, 's greatest win is forever linked to the day Phillip Island's own horse conquered the Melbourne Cup.



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





Phillip Island Tennis Club

Social Tennis

Every Thursday in October
9:30 - 11:30 ladies/mixed social
1:00 - 4:00 mens intermediate

Every Saturday in October
1:00- 4:00 mixed social

Sunday 26th October
9:00 - 12:00 Social Round
Robin Tournament

register interest for any
phillipislandtennis@gmail.com

[https://play.tennis.com.au/
phillipislandtennisclub](https://play.tennis.com.au/phillipislandtennisclub)



Following are the minutes for the RCA AGM

The President's and Treasurer's reports will be available on our website:

<http://rhyllcoa.com.au>

AGM

Saturday 20 September 2025

Held 10am at the Rhyll Hall

MINUTES

Present: J Kiley (Chair), C Bush (Minutes), K Kiley, C&B Overton, S&J Inness, M&E Burt, T&D Roberts, S&R Kemp, M&F Maiolo, C May, P Foden, R Blackman, M Welker, K Frances, J Rickarby, K Parkinson, S Beulice, D Basham, J Brentwood, I Pascoe, T Mirini, L Eames, L Heflingers, S Dougherty, J Tucker, R Brewin. (32)

Apologies: P&A Balfe, J&L Lawrence, K&G Perkins, L&P Clarke, G Tucker, G May, E Fletcher, L Martin, D Parkinson, P Rothfield, R Jansson, B Morris. (16)

Minutes of the previous AGM: Held Saturday 21 September 2024. **MOTION:** that the Minutes of the 2024 AGM be accepted. Moved: K Parkinson. Seconded: L Heflingers. Carried

President's Report: Highlighted the year's events and thanked those who supported the committee and community events.

Treasurer's Report: J Lawrence highlighted the year's income and expenses to June 30. **Motion** that the Financial Report be accepted. Moved: J Lawrence. Seconded: S Inness. Carried.

Bill Overton took the chair to declare all positions vacant. Bill thanked the outgoing committee for their commitment over the past year. The following nominations were received:

POSITION	NOMINEE
President	Jinn Kiley
V. President	Carolyn May
Secretary	Cheryl Overton
Minute Secretary	Carmen Bush
Treasurer	Judy Lawrence

General Committee Nominations: Sandra Inness, Peter Balfe, Shane Dougherty, Brian Morris. **MOTION** to elect all the uncontested nominations named above to the Rhyll Community Association Committee of 2025-2026. Moved: K Kiley. Seconded: C Bush. Carried.

Meeting closed: 10.15am

Next AGM Saturday September 2026



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

Shane Dougherty

jandkkiley@bigpond.com

cheryl.overton@bigpond.com.au

rhyllcoa@gmail.com

jimisan2@hotmail.com

ccbush@bigpond.net.au

carolyn.may87@gmail.com

peter.balfe@bigpond.com

dbrianmorris@gmail.com

sdougherty@bigpond.com