

RHYLL REPORTER

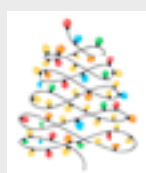
RCA Meeting

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



**Saturday 17th January
2026**

Rhyll Mechanics Hall
All residents welcome



Rhyll Christmas Lights

Rhyll residents are encouraged to decorate their houses for Christmas to delight local children and visitors to our lovely village. Get in the spirit - the judges will be out and about and you could win a prize!

It's Christmas time again!! How quickly are the years flashing by...? Events coming up

- **Friday December 12th is our first Twilight Market for the season with the second on 2nd January 2026**

- **Saturday December 13th** its Christmas in the Park with our local band Splitshot, not to mention a delicious BBQ, salad, dessert and the ever popular Rhyll Christmas Raffle



- **Tuesday 23rd December** is the first of our 3 cruise ships arriving

- **Tuesday 1st January 2026** is the second cruise ship arrival.

- **Monday 26th January 2026** is The Gathering of Neighbours Rhyll Park with bands, food vans and entertainment for the whole family.



To all those residents who have volunteered to help at the Rhyll Markets A BIG THANK YOU!

We wouldn't be able to run such a successful event without you.

This year we have over 100 stallholders wanting a spot and every one keeps telling us that The Rhyll Twilight Market is the best market around!!

So cheers and have a drink or an ice-cream on us at the next market!!

If you would like to help, there are plenty of jobs available!! Ring Judy on 0418 325055

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 Hall Bookings

From Sept 1st 2025

Phone 0491 641 331

The Ultimate Christmas Gift

The Phillip Island Golf Club has the most fabulous raffle prize for you avid cricket fans; an all inclusive hospitality of gourmet food and drinks, complete with car parking, and premium views at the CompNow Corporate Box at the MCG for Sunday 4th January 2026. Hospitality commences at 4.30pm with **Melbourne Stars** vs **Melbourne Renegades** starting at 6pm. During the game, you and 5 of your best friends will be served sumptuous food and beverages! And there are only 400 tickets. Raffle prize is valued at over \$3500 and will be drawn on Wednesday 17th December at Phillip Island Golf Club.

Tickets are \$5 each and are available at Rhyll General Store (unless sold out) or ring Judy on 0418 325055. All proceeds go to Ovarian Cancer research. A special thanks to CompNow for their generous donation.

Win the Ultimate Christmas Gift

VIP CORPORATE BOX AT THE MCG!"

- A fully catered corporate box at the MCG
- For 5 people
- One Day Big Bash Cricket!
- Melbourne Stars v Melbourne Renegades*
- Sunday 4th January 2026
- Tickets \$5 - only 400 available.

Raffle drawn at the Phillip Island Golf Club at 3pm on Wednesday December 17th

Worth over \$3,000!
Includes car parking,
all food and drinks
for 6 guests

**All proceeds support vital research
into ovarian cancer - the silent killer**

Christmas in the Park



Christmas in the Park on the Saturday 13th December for the Rhyll Community. Come and join us for a sausage, hamburger & salad. This event is presented as a joint celebration by Rhyll Community Association and The Rhyll Hall and Parks committee. As a special treat this year we will be having some members of our local Rhyll band Splitshot playing for everybody's enjoyment.



Please register your name and how many people attending on the sheet at General Store - we need to know numbers for catering purposes.

SANTA will arrive around 7pm, so don't forget to have a wrapped gift with your child's name **clearly** written on the outside and drop off for Santa at Nick's General Store.

Don't forget our Rhyll Community Christmas Raffle which will be drawn at the 'Christmas in the Park' party. The Donation Box for raffle goods is in the General Store. All donations gratefully received.

Dogs in Rhyll



The Rhyll Community Association Committee have approved the installation of another Doggy Bag dispenser on the rubbish bin opposite MY Seaside Cafe.

Also, a friendly reminder that two additional bylaws officers have been appointed by Bass Coast Council to enforce restrictions on beaches and ensure that owners pick up after their dogs. This message is from Bass Coast Shire website "All dogs must be on a leash when out in public and not in a designated off-leash area. Failure to do so can result in an infringement of \$185. You must also pick up after your dog when out in public and carry bags with which to do so. Failure to pick up after your dog or carry bags carries an infringement of up to \$370." Please also note that from 1st December until 30th April dogs are not allowed on Rhyll foreshore between the hours of 10am - 5pm, even on leash. With the additional bylaws officers doing split shifts and weekend shifts, we can expect an increased presence across the island, including Rhyll.

Rhyll Coast Action

Rhyll Coast Action is a group of volunteers of all ages which assists the Bass Coast Shire Council in the conservation of Rhyll's foreshore. For 27 years the group has been eradicating noxious weeds and planting indigenous species for the benefit of current and future generations. New members are always welcome. Contact rhyllcoastaction@gmail.com or visit our information table at



the Rhyll Community Market

Christmas in Rhyll, One Hundred Years Ago

By Pamela Rothfield

A hundred years ago, Christmas in Rhyll was a quieter, simpler affair—without the bustle of holiday traffic, music playing from every shopfront, or the endless swirl of invitations and events. In the 1920s, Rhyll was little more than a scattering of houses around the foreshore, a couple of shops, a jetty, and wide stretches of bush and farmland. Yet for all its simplicity, Christmas was a time of anticipation, preparation, and community spirit.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, families would begin gathering what they needed—much of it made by hand or sourced locally. Children kept watch for the first cherries from the mainland orchards arriving by boat, a sure sign that the festive season was near. Mothers baked early in the morning before the summer heat set in, filling their kitchens with the smells of

fruitcake, boiled puddings, and jars of preserved berries. Eggs were carefully saved up, cream skimmed from the top of the milk, and butter patted and wrapped, all ready for the Christmas table.

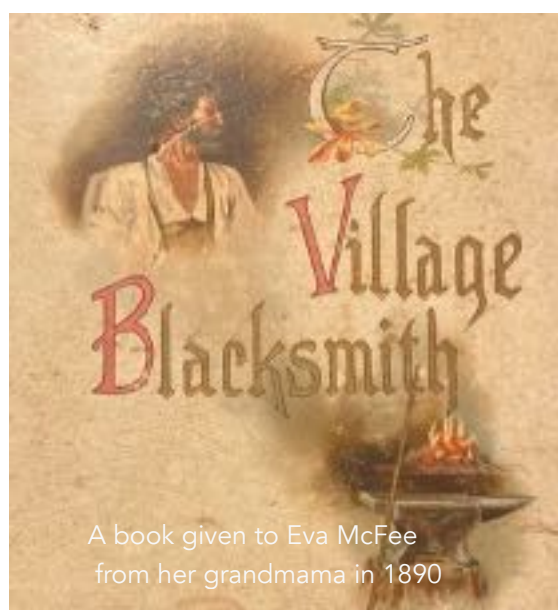


Christmas circa 1926

One of the most eagerly awaited events of the season took place at the Rhyll Hall, where the school community gathered to mark the end of the year. Each December, Percy McFee would provide a large Christmas tree—freshly cut, fragrant and proudly standing almost as tall as the hall itself. The children decorated it with handmade paper chains, saved scraps of ribbon, and whatever cheerful touches they could create. In the weeks beforehand, the School Committee would make a special trip to Wonthaggi to purchase gifts for every child in Rhyll—only two dozen or so, but enough to fill the hall with a sense of magic. The distribution of these gifts, presented with great ceremony,

was the highlight of the annual school concert. Proud parents, shy performers and much giggling filled the hall as the children sang, recited poems and performed their carefully rehearsed pieces before finally claiming their treasured Christmas parcel from beneath the glittering tree.

The Rhyll store, run by local man Stan Walton, stocked small treasures for the season: tins of boiled lollies, packets of coloured streamers, a handful of toys, and perhaps a new enamel jug or a bolt of fabric. Most gifts were simple and practical—new socks, a hand-sewn shirt, a wooden toy, some made by father in the shed, or a carefully chosen book that might be shared by the



A book given to Eva McFee
from her grandmama in 1890

whole family.

Christmas Eve was a day of last-minute chores. Animals had to be fed and tended, gardens watered, and fishing nets mended. There was no escaping daily work, even at Christmas. But as evening settled over the inlet, families stepped out onto their verandahs to feel the cool breeze off the water. The village felt close-knit, even without a single streetlight.

On Christmas morning, the sounds of excited children carried across the quiet settlement. Families gathered for a modest but heartfelt breakfast—freshly laid eggs, bread baked the day before and maybe sausages or slices of cold roast kept aside specially for the day. After church services in Cowes or sometimes the Rhyll Hall, Christmas dinner was the centrepiece. The wood fire was cranked up in the kitchen for the roasts (sometimes turkey, sometimes chicken) and the Christmas pudding was boiled for hours, which would later contain a number of threepence pieces, buried under lashings of custard. Bowls of summer fruit, jugs of homemade cordial, and freshly churned butter turned the day into a feast, even without all the luxuries we now take for granted.

In the afternoon, families often walked down to the foreshore. The children paddled in the shallows or hunted for shells, while the adults sat under the shade of the old cypress and ti-trees, grateful for the sea breeze. Some years, neighbours gathered for a cricket match or a friendly game of rounders on a cleared patch of grass, ending with laughter, sunburnt noses, and even shared leftovers.

Without televisions, phones, or the rush of modern life, Christmas in Rhyll a century ago unfolded at a gentle pace. It was shaped by the land, the tides, and the closeness of a small community where everyone knew one another. It wasn't fancy, but it was full of meaning—woven from simple pleasures, shared effort, and the knowledge that, on this day at least, work could pause and families could come together.

Perhaps, in the midst of our modern celebrations, there's something lovely in remembering that quieter kind of Christmas - one shaped by connection, care, and love of our own little village by the sea.

Have a safe and Happy Christmas

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





Gathering of Neighbours – Australia Day in Rhyll

Rhyll Park will come alive on Australia Day with our Gathering of Neighbours — a relaxed, family-friendly get-together for the whole Phillip Island community.

Everyone is invited to come along, unwind, and enjoy an afternoon of simple fun. There'll be activities for children, food vans for the grown-ups, non-stop music in the park, adult refreshments at Bill's Bar and plenty of space to catch up with friends old and new.

The focus of the day is bringing our community together — celebrating the people who call Phillip Island home, in all our diversity, while being mindful that the 26th of January holds different meaning for different Australians.

So pack a picnic blanket, gather your neighbours, and join us under the trees at Rhyll Park from 11.30pm until 3pm. It's a gentle, welcoming way to mark the day, and we'd love to see you there.



RHYLL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (RCA)
GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 15 November 2025 RHYLL HALL 10am
MINUTES

Present: As per attendance list

Apologies: As per List

Business Arising – Updates

- Parking at the Hall: Contractors have been consulted on the proposed works which will cost \$19,000.
- Master Plan for Rhyll Park: will take some time to progress.
- Power to Park: \$5,000 BCSC Grant Received. \$2,810 to be paid by RCA. 6 power points have been installed in two locations.
- Resilient Community- Justin from BCSC agreed that Rhyll Hall could be a community refuge when needed. Lisa Golding Community Recovery Officer started this week.

Correspondence:

Outgoing: BCSC re Foreshore seating to be completed. Dead Tree Removal.

Incoming: BCSC responses. Local Resident re Dog Park. P Lawrence re Market helpers.

Motion to receive the Correspondence. Moved: C Overton. Seconded: K Parkinson. Carried.

Financial Report:

Total Bank Balance as of 30 October \$62,162.92. Membership is 350. Motion that the Financial Report be accepted. Moved: C Bush. Seconded: C May. Carried.

General Business:

Dates for the Twilights Markets 12 Dec, 2 & 16 Jan.

Afternoon Teas: Mary-Lu shared that these gatherings are a great way to connect over homemade treats and tea. The next session is on Thursday, 4 December, from 2-4pm at the Hall.

Christmas in the Park: will take place on December 13 from 5:30 pm, with food served at 6 pm. The attendance sheet for catering numbers will be at the Rhyll General Store. Music will be provided by Splitshot

Community Raffle: The Christmas Hamper collection box and Raffle tickets will be available from 1st December —\$2 each or \$5 for three—and prizes will be drawn during Christmas in the Park. You may leave your child's gift at the store, it must be wrapped and clearly named, for Santa to hand out at the Christmas in the Park Dec 13 around 7 pm.

Cruise ships: December 23. January 1. April 4. D Parkinson and B Overton to set up the fences. Another team will set up the tables and chairs.

Gathering of Neighbours Celebration: 26 January 2026 at the Rhyll Park: Volunteers needed to set up before and pack up after the event. ACTION: Details in the Rhyll Reporter.

Rhyll's Bi-Centenary Celebration: 6 Dec 2026: more details to come.

Rhyll Coast Action:

AGM is Saturday 22nd Nov 10am at the Hall. A good year with some new faces lending a hand. Council is offering free green waste disposal until the end of November. Cutting your flowers when they have finished blooming will save unwanted seedlings. Newcomers always welcome. Contact rhyllcoastaction@gmail.com

Rhyll Tennis Club: Summer events include Come and Try Sessions, 4-5pm in conjunction with the Twilight Markets and School Holiday Sessions. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings and Thursday Evening Sessions are held every week. Google Rhyll Tennis for details on the Tennis Vic website. Or contact rhylltennis@gmail.com

Other Business:

Bill Overton and David Parkinson replaced the vandalised trees planted by the Council, on the southern foreshore. Rabbit proof protection is needed. ACTION: RCA to support and fund.

Cash for Cans collection donated another \$30 to the Hub Auxiliary.

P Lawrence would like help with the set up before and pack up after the Twilight Markets, and Bill's Bar-helpers need RSA certificate-for further details pls contact the RCA Committee.

J Kiley reported on the TRPI/Ausnet trial to heat hot water during the day instead of night.

ACTION: Meeting held at Rhyll Hall for interested parties

D Parkinson remarked about the Hall Cladding needing attention.

Dog signage and off-leash dogs discussion concern over the behaviour of a few. Extra Council Rangers are on duty outside of office hours. Fines for no lead and no pickup of dog waste being actioned. ACTION: Carmen details for Rhyll Reporter.

Migratory Birds now arriving to our tidelines; wonderful to observe before being disturbed by seasonal recreational boating.

Decorated houses over Christmas: ACTION: details in the Rhyll Reporter.

Meeting closed: 10.45am

Next General Meeting: 17 January 2026 Rhyll Hall at 10 AM.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land of which we are meeting and pay our respect to their Elders, past and present



Membership forms are available on our website
<http://rhyllcoa.com.au>

Rhyll Community Association Inc Committee Members:

President	Jim Kiley	jandkkiley@bigpond.com
Vice-President	Carolyn May	carolyn.may87@gmail.com
Secretary	Cheryl Overton	cheryl.overton@bigpond.com.au
Treasurer	Judy Lawrence	rhyllcoa@gmail.com

Committee members:

Sandra Inness	jimisan2@hotmail.com
Carmen Bush	ccbush@bigpond.net.au
Peter Balfe	peter.balfe@bigpond.com
Brian Morris	dbrianmorris@gmail.com
Shane Dougherty	sdougherty@bigpond.com