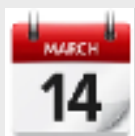


RHYLL REPORTER



RCA Meeting

The next Rhyll
Community
Association **Meeting**
will be held at **10am**
Saturday 14th March
2026
Rhyll Mechanics Hall
All residents welcome

Rhyll Tavern

We're all waiting for the Rhyll Tavern to open and will be lining up for front row seats.

At this stage we are told it should be opening this month.

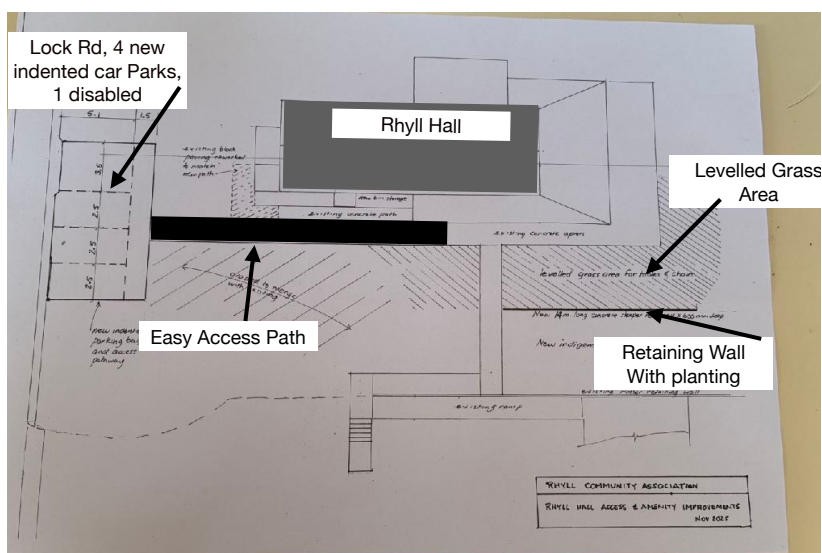
I'm sure it will be worth waiting for.....

Big Plans for Rhyll

Things are finally moving along regarding our extra car parks at the Hall as well as the levelling and landscaping around the easy access path.

The plan below shows the additional indented car park, the new pathway (slightly inclined for easy access) the new grassed area and the retaining wall.

We have applied for a \$10,000 grant from Bass Coast Shire Council to ease the cost burden, so fingers crossed.



Foreshore Seating

The next exciting news: extra seating has finally been installed on the foreshore! You can now relax and take in the stunning water views. Our next step is to look after our foreshore trees to keep them alive, and wait for them to grow into shade trees.

Initially, there was some concern from residents about the placement of one of the seats, the view being partially obscured by a tree.

Thanks to the efforts of the Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC), this issue has been resolved.

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

Thermomix Consultant

Contact Carolyn May 0409 252 099

Free in home demonstrations

There's an interesting backstory to the seat's original placement.

When we first selected the locations for the seats, we had to consider the needs of fishers who park their trailers along the foreshore, as well as the Beach Road residents who wanted to minimise any obstructions to their views. At that time, the tree was just a small bush.

All credit goes to Bass Coast Shire for promptly relocating the problematic seat by one metre, ensuring that our visitors—and we—can enjoy unparalleled views of the water.



Foreshore Tree Problems

- Unfortunately someone removed one of the young trees planted on the foreshore. This has been captured on CCTV.

A new tree will soon be planted to replace this one.

- Sadly, someone has also put **Chlorine tablets** at the base of the newly planted trees. They have managed to kill one tree, however it has been replaced.



Can residents please be vigilant with daily checks to prevent this from happening again. Additional tablets have subsequently been removed from the base of a tree. For your information, these trees have not been planted to interrupt your view, but rather to try to save the erosion of the foreshore and as a consequence prevent your insurance premium increasing if a C82 is put on the Rhyll Foreshore.

Time to de-flower your Agapanthus!!



Our dedicated Agapanthus flower removalists!

It's that time of year again!!

You either LOVE 'em or HATE 'em!

However you feel about them, if you let the Agapanthus flowers go to seed the little devils will start popping up everywhere and you all know how hard they are to remove!!!

So please remove the dying or dead flowers before they spread their seeds.

Rhyll Tennis Club

Pickleball – 2025/26 Summer Program

Anyone can play!

Pickleball is easy to learn, great fun, and full of laughs.

Social Games

- Tue, Wed & Fri: 9:30 am–12 noon
- Thu Evening: 5:00–6:30 pm

 **Register:** rhylltennis@gmail.com

 **Google** "Rhyll Tennis" or scan the QR code for details.



Phillip Island TOWN (Take Off Weight Naturally) Club

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. Meetings take place every Thursday from 8.45am to 11am at the Rhyll Mechanics Hall, 54 Lock Road Rhyll. Weigh in time is 8.45 - 9.45am followed by a General Meeting and Group Discussion. Contact Details: Vincent Vale 0414 709 066 or Lillian Heflingers 0438 595 688.



Join us for a Fundraising Party for Rhyll Tennis Club

We warmly invite you to an evening of lively music and camaraderie. Join us for a fantastic night featuring Marty Claassen's 3-piece band, the Madam York Collective known for their laid-back blues and funk vibe. They've played at venues like Barwon Heads Hotel, Royal Mail Hotel, Sebastopol, and Footscray Hotels, and now they're bringing their talent to Bass Coast for a short tour on Phillip Island.

Event Details:

When: Saturday 28th February 2026, from 7pm to 11 pm

Where: Rhyll Mechanics Hall, Lock Road Rhyll

Who: Open to Rhyll Tennis Club members, the Rhyll Community, family and friends.

Why: This event will help raise funds for maintenance equipment and administrative support

What to Bring:

Feel free to BYO drinks and any cold food you'd like. Nibbles will be provided!

Tickets:

\$20 per person. Please register by Wednesday 25th February by contacting rhylltennis@gmail.com

Payments can be made to

Rhyll Tennis Club

BSB 633 000

Account 170 263 461

Ref: Your name

Don't wait - book your tickets soon as spots are limited.



Reid Street renewal Update

In March Shane Dougherty should have a bit more information for everyone with the planned renewal of Reid Street surface. Shane has received the following advice from Bass Coast Shire Council.

The council explained that the original aim was to go to the February Council meeting with independent condition audits completed for all affected roads, however the contractor was delayed in their report.

This has meant Council have had to push it back a month, but it does mean they will be able to complete consultation with property owners with all available information.

Stand by

A Quiet Trailblazer of Rhyll - Phyllis Papps (1944-2025)

By Pamela Rothfield

Rhyll has farewelled one of its most quietly remarkable residents with the passing of Phyllis Miranda Papps, a woman whose life was shaped by courage, conviction and a steadfast commitment to being true to herself - at a time when doing so came at a high personal cost.

Phyllis was born in Cairo in 1944 to Greek parents and was given the name Miranda Phyllis Dimitra Papaioannou. She arrived in Australia in 1950 as a young child, not speaking a word of English. Like many migrant families of the time, hers held firmly to tradition, culture and expectation - values that would later make Phyllis's personal journey all the more challenging.

After completing her schooling at Ringwood High School, Phyllis trained as a librarian at the State Library of Victoria, qualifying as an Associate of the Australia Library and Information Association. What followed was a long and distinguished career spanning 37 years, working across Melbourne city libraries, local government and peak bodies including the Municipal Association of Victoria. It was work she valued deeply - grounded in research, knowledge and public service.



Francesca and Phyllis



In 1970, Phyllis met Francesca Curtis. From that moment on, their lives were entwined — as partners, researchers, writers and unapologetic feminists. Later that same year, the two women made Australian history when they appeared together on the ABC current affairs program *This Day Tonight*, becoming the first lesbian couple to publicly come out on Australian television.

It is difficult now to imagine the courage this required. In the early 1970s, male homosexuality was still illegal across much of Australia. Lesbian women, meanwhile, were largely invisible - rarely named, acknowledged or understood.

"The early 1970s were very, very conservative," Phyllis once explained. "Gay women were invisible, because people didn't think lesbians existed."

The ABC received numerous complaints following the broadcast.

Almost immediately, the couple faced backlash at work and within their families. Phyllis's own

mother took legal action to prevent the two women from making any claim on her inheritance and made it clear she would not see them together.

"It was quite devastating," Phyllis reflected later. "Not because we couldn't cope with being ourselves - but because we couldn't get people to accept us."

Despite this, Phyllis and Francesca remained resolute. They exchanged gold wedding rings in July 1970 — long before marriage equality was imaginable — and wore them for the rest of their lives. They were active members of the pioneering Daughters of Bilitis, later known as the Australasian Lesbian Movement, helping to lay the groundwork for the rights and visibility many now take for granted.

Over five decades later, the two women were still together, living quietly on Phillip Island until Francesca's death in December 2021. Shortly before her passing, their story was revisited in the ABC documentary *Why Did She Have To Tell The World?*, directed by filmmaker Abbie Pobjoy - a powerful reflection on the cost and impact of early activism.

One of the most moving moments in that documentary came during the 2017 marriage equality postal survey, when Phyllis gently asked her 98-year-old mother how she had voted.

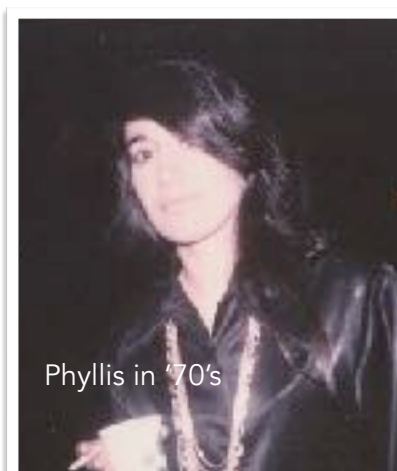
"Proudly, she said, 'I voted yes,'" Phyllis recalled. "It's taken this whole lifetime to get to that."

Phyllis Papps lived long enough to see the world change - not because people like her demanded recognition, but because they quietly insisted on honesty, dignity and love.

Reflecting on their legacy, Francesca once said, "The future belongs to the young people. We leave it to them to carry on the wonderful work that has been done."

Rhyll was fortunate to count Phyllis among its residents. Her life reminds us that history is not only shaped in parliaments or protests, but also by individuals who choose - again and again - to live truthfully, even when it is hard.

She will be remembered with respect, gratitude and quiet admiration.



Phyllis in '70s

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



Rotary
Phillip Island & San Remo



CHARITY GOLF DAY

4 PERSON AMBROSE
9:00am for 10:00am Start

FRIDAY MARCH 6

Phillip Island Golf Club



**Win a new car with a
Hole-in-One! ***

*Terms and conditions apply



Proudly sponsored by :-

Wonthaggi Toyota

Other competitions include:

- **Nearest the Pin**
- **Straightest Drive**
- **Lucky Ball Drop**

Light breakfast and post game
hamburgers provided

- **Entry Fee \$60 p.p.**

Registrations now open

<https://www.trybooking.com/DIKVC>

Proceeds go to the
Phillip Island
Community Hospital



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