

RHYLL REPORTER



RCA Meeting

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

Saturday 16th May 2026

Rhyll Mechanics Hall

All residents welcome

Tree Destruction

The Rhyll Community Association is alarmed at the thought of any residents destroying foreshore trees. So much so that the local police and council have been advised and will be taking action if the destruction continues.

We appeal to all residents to keep a watchful eye on our trees which have been planted to assist in reducing the chance of coastal erosion.



Historic Sign for Jetty Shed

Our new Historic Sign which has been in the pipeline since the Boat Ramp upgrade is about to be installed at the Jetty Shed.

We need to thank Pam Rothfield for getting all the information and photos together with the assistance of John Jansson's collection of photo and input prior to his death.

If you haven't had a wander along the foreshore, it's worth doing so, as you will see a treasure trove of historic information on all of the history boards between the jetty and the pier.

Brief History of Rhyll

1798 Long before European arrival, the Rhyll foreshore was a seasonal home and meeting place for the Boon Wurung people. The shallow inlet and surrounding coastline provided abundant food, including shellfish, seabirds such as shearwaters, and other resources that sustained life along the coast for thousands of years.

1800's On the foreshore near the Rhyll jetty stands a stone cairn commemorating the landing of explorer George Bass, who arrived here on 4 January 1798 in an open whale boat while exploring Western Port.

1826-1828 In the early 1800s, sealers arrived in large numbers, establishing temporary camps around Rhyll and travelling to the island's west coast to hunt seals. Their presence marked the beginning of sustained European activity in the area.

1842 The British claimed the area in 1826, raising a flag on the hill above Rhyll in the name of the King. The site became known as Fort Durrant, but the settlement proved short-lived. Most settlers departed within weeks, and the site was abandoned entirely within two years.

1868 The McHaffie brothers secured the lease of Phillip Island, marking the beginning of more permanent European occupation and pastoral use of the land.

Land at Rhyll was gazetted for selection in September 1868. Prior to subdivision, landowners engaged in fishing and marine industries such as oystering and the transport of goods.

1850s Captain John Lock, often described as the founder of Rhyll, was one of those early residents. It is believed he first made Rhyll his home from the 1850s.

1889 The Rhyll Post Office opened in September 1889 at Captain Lock's home.

1902 In 1902 it moved to the home of William and Annie McFee, remaining there until 1922 before transferring to San Vahan's residence and adjoining General Store - where postal services have continued to the present day.

1891 Built by local residents in 1891, the Rhyll Mechanics' Institute Hall began as both a school and community meeting place. Constructed largely through volunteer efforts, it became the social heart of the village - hosting classes, church services, dances and celebrations. Today it remains at the centre of community life, continuing to host gatherings such as Christmas in the Park and other local events.

1950s Rhyll is a small fishing village on the north-eastern corner of Phillip Island. Its sheltered waters have long provided safe anchorage for marine craft. To the north lie the famous seal warrens of Rhyll, an important habitat for migratory birds and a haven for a wide variety of marine life.

Rhyll Today Rhyll has always been geographically larger than its township footprint. Today the locality covers approximately 16 square kilometres - about one-sixth of Phillip Island - extending beyond the village to include wetlands, farmland and coastal reserves, much as did when the area first proved a working harbour some three thousand years ago. For generations, the jetty and foreshore have remained at the heart of Rhyll's connection to the sea.

At the 2021 Census, Rhyll had a population of 836.

Year	Population
1891	88
1921	85
1951	113
1986	225
1996	278
2001	450
2006	524
2011	544
2021	836

Phillip Island TOWN 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.



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

Are these your flags?

Nine Australian Flags mysteriously arrived on our flag poles just prior to Australia Day.

Members of the RCA Committee justifiably assumed the BCSC had installed the flags - And it was noted that normally we would see the 3 flags to which we we have become accustomed: Aussie, Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander flags.

Imagine our surprise when the BCSC rang to ask us to remove them!

The BCSC have since taken the flags down and are storing them, awaiting collection. If they're yours let the RCA know if you wish to be reunited with your flags.



Upcoming Plans for Rhyll

Presently there are solid plans afoot to add 4 car parks together with an invalid car park on Lock Rd, in front of the Rhyll Hall. Together with this, we are building a new access path leading to the Hall. This will eliminate the need for physically impaired people who struggle to use the existing ramp. This work should be commencing shortly.

We are also in discussion with residents regarding the following suggestions for a major project:

- a Rotunda on the foreshore near Walton St
- all Ability exercise equipment in the Park
- a Sound Shell in the Rhyll Park
- a Storage Shed and native garden in the small area opposite the General Store

If you have any suggestions or comments on these initiatives please let us know.



Reid Street Surfacing

Shane Dougherty attended the council meeting in Berninnet on 19th March, where the new Draft Dust Suppression Seal Removal policy was discussed and passed unanimously. The policy is now open for community feedback.

To recap, last year, a petition in March/April last year successfully paused the removal of the asphalt surface in order to review options. A second petition aimed at reviewing costings for a replacement in kind surface was paused due to a new Draft Dust Suppression Seal Removal policy review.



In December, it was noted that the 10 homeowners on Queen Street Wonthaggi agreed to contribute around \$4,000 each for a project funded 60% by the council. There are currently 30 roads across Bass Coast similarly affected by the dust suppressant seal removal.

As of now, the new policy caps contributions at \$4,000 per titled address, but Shane expressed concern over the requirement for 100% agreement among owners to accept this charge. He will meet with council officers next week to discuss this and other questions.

Feedback is encouraged during the consultation period until April 15. Shane emphasizes the importance of reaching unanimous agreement to avoid reverting to gravel roads. He plans to suggest modifying the agreement requirement from 100% to 80% and to explore flexible payment options. The goal is to finalize a policy that ensures a new road surface by the end of 2027.

Shane welcomes any questions or concerns from the community as they move forward.

Business Awards

Voting is now open for the Bass Coast Business Awards and we believe we have the winner of the **retail and services** category right here in Rhyll.

Please use the QR code on the right to register your vote and give Nick and Vyshu the support that they are always giving our community.

As a business that is open 365 days a year from 7am to 7pm, the Rhyll General Store stands alone for service, not to mention they make the best burgers on the Island.

Voting closes on 29th May at 5pm. Got to it!



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.

Did you know ?

***RHYLL TENNIS CLUB
FUNDRAISER TRIVIA NIGHT***

**Saturday 23rd May 2026
6:30 for 7 pm start**

**Rhyll Mechanics Hall,
Lock Rd., RHYLL**

**Book Early Only
55- 60 seats
available.
Tables of 8
\$10 pp,
BYO nibbles and
drinks**

Book via rhylltennis@gmail.com





TRIVIA NIGHT

Get a group of friends together, tables of up to 8
If you are not in a team, we can find one for you!

Where: Cowes Bowling Club, Dunsmore Rd, Cowes

When: Thursday 28th May 2026

Raffles

7-9pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Tickets: \$15 per head

BYO nibbles, Drinks at Bar prices

Bookings essential

Call Amanda to book 0407 684 838

Door
Prizes

All proceeds going to



**Phillip Island
Community Hospital**

Part of **Bayside Health**



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
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