

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



Cleaner Wanted

The Rhyll Hall & Parks Committee is looking for a reliable cleaner for our lovely Historic Hall.

The job is for 2 hrs per week but more details can be gained by ringing 0491 641331



Resilient Rhyll

Bass Coast Council is partnering with communities like ours to set up an Energy Resilience Hub to provide safety and electricity in emergencies for charging phones and meeting other basic needs. PICAL is also one of these Hubs.



From recent events, responsible authorities have seen that communities are the first to respond after emergencies like the recent Victorian fires as well as the storms we had not so long ago, when the power was out for several days in Rhyll.

At Rhyll we have a vibrant community where neighbours know and care for each other. Rhyll also has a great network of community groups and facilities, like the Hall which is highly regarded as a great asset by our community. Its central location draws us together; it's a place where we can feel safe.



Bass Coast Emergency Dashboard

Designed to help residents, community members and visitors stay informed and safe, before, during and after emergencies.



For emergency information and local safety resources for this area, scan the QR code or visit emergency.basscoast.vic.gov.au



Council is supporting the Rhyll community with solar panels, backup battery storage, and Sky Muster wi-fi communications.

Justin Murray, the BCSC Community Resilience Officer, has been instrumental in assisting the RCA's Carmen Bush in determining the necessary requirements.

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 5956 9370
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

Phone 0491 641 331

Thermomix Consultant

Contact
Carolyn May 0409 252 099

Dog Park Survey for Rhyll residents

You should have all received an email with the link to the survey to allow us to summarise the feeling of residents towards a fenced dog park.

One confusion that seems to be surfacing is that some residents feel the RCA committee is against an off lead dog area. This is NOT factual. The only reservation that the RCA has voiced is having a FENCED dog area in the Rhyll Park as it would severely restrict the events that are held there. For example, we held the Wooden Boat festival in the park, Australia Day, Christmas in the Park event, and the Rhyll Markets, as it is the only public space in Rhyll where children can freely run around without the dangers of traffic.



So please if you haven't yet had your say, please do so as we will be presenting the results at the next RCA meeting on Saturday 16th May.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6CRMCT7Y>

Survey for Bass Coast Markets



The Bass Coast Shire Council is undertaking a survey to ensure that the markets in Bass Coast align with the community's character and values.

Concerns have been raised regarding the management of local markets, the number of markets, citing issues such as a lack of variety among stalls and the presence of vendors who do not live in the Bass Coast area.

These external operators are reportedly selling their spots to stallholders who also do not reside in the shire at the expense of local stallholders.

If you feel like putting in a good word for our Rhyll Community markets, feedback closes on Sunday May 24th

[Engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/markets](https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/markets)

Our markets dates for next season:

Dec 11th, Jan 8th and Jan 15th

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!



**Bass Coast
Business Awards**
People's Choice Awards

**Vote for
RHYLL GENERAL STORE**



VOTING IS NOW OPEN!
Support your favourite local businesses by casting your vote.



**Bass Coast
Business Awards**
People's Choice Awards

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

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

Raffles **Door Prizes**

All proceeds going to



Phillip Island Community Hospital
Part of Bayside Health

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.



Correspondence:

Good morning.

Love the local newsletter, keep up the good work!

Further to what's going on in the park ,the ideas/plans you have are great for our village.

The only thing we need now is an off the leash dog area. Rather than having to drive to the current areas on the island, I consider Rhyll large enough to allow residents to make year round use of such an area.

It would also be of benefit to negotiate with Council on allowing dogs to be off leash on the Rhyll beach at suitable times.

Thanks for your work.

Rhyll resident (name supplied)

Thanks for the great job done by all.

I was reading your article (Upcoming plans for Rhyll) and noticed there was no mention about the carpark adjacent to the jetty, where all the cruise ships arrive.

Are there any plans, or a timeline to get the carpark resurfaced.

With winter coming the area will turn into a mud pit, and when summer returns we will get our dust bowl back again.

Regards

Rhyll resident (name supplied)

Duffus Road Rhyll

By Pamela Rothfield

In the early annals of Rhyll's history, the track leading to our serene hamlet was known as Duffus Road, not the Rhyll-Newhaven Road we recognize today. Who was this enigmatic Duffus character?

James Duffus stands as the name behind this road, a resident of Rhyll from around 1873 to 1911. He acquired 141 acres (57 ha) situated on the northwest corner of the present-day main Phillip Island Tourist Road and Rhyll-Newhaven Road, where he erected a humble wooden cottage. James was known for breeding stud horses and farming turkeys on his property.

Born on May 17, 1824, in Dunnottar, a coastal parish nestled along the route from Aberdeen to Edinburgh in Scotland, James was the youngest of seven children to George Duffus and Isabella Thom, both of whom were farmers. James, too, toiled the land, earning his keep as an agricultural labourer, often found working in the neighbouring village of Catterline.

It is quite likely that James embarked on his journey to Australia aboard the *Ticonderoga* on December 22, 1852, sponsored by a Mr. Cruickshank of Main Creek, near Yea.

Over the ensuing eleven years, James diligently worked the land, gradually making his way the 160km west to Maldon, where he met his beloved Ellen Peckham and, in 1863, they became man and wife. Notably, James expanded his occupation to include that of a storekeeper alongside his farming endeavours. Sadly, Ellen's life was tragically cut short, succumbing to complications just 12 days after giving birth to their sole offspring, a daughter also named Ellen, in March 1864, in Boggy Creek, Kyneton.



Eliza Coghlan

Devastated by the loss of his beloved wife, James, at the age of 40, sought the assistance of a housekeeper to care for himself and his infant daughter. He engaged the services of Eliza Coghlan, who was then around the ripe age of 70. Astonishingly, Eliza remained in James' employ for an impressive 46 years until her passing in 1911.

The opening up of Phillip Island for subdivision in 1868 ignited considerable excitement in Kyneton, and many families from the area saw the island as a promising new frontier with greener pastures. James was swept up in this wave of enthusiasm and made the momentous move to Phillip Island in 1873. Accompanied by Eliza, it is believed that James' daughter, Ellen, then 9 years old, stayed behind in Kyneton with relatives.

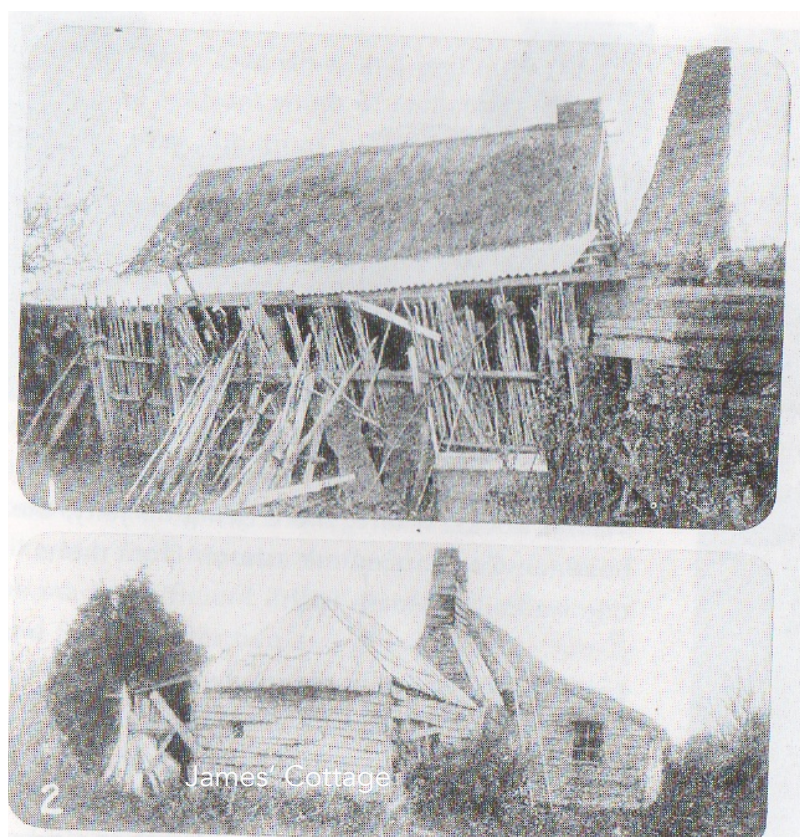
In the ensuing years, the road upon which James erected his cottage, today known as Rhyll-Newhaven Road, was colloquially referred to as Duffus Road, while the main Phillip Island Road was called Centre Road.

James wholeheartedly embraced the Phillip Island community, becoming a shire councillor in

May 1878, replacing Joseph Fowler, who had resigned. His dedication led to his re-election in August of 1880. During his time in Council, James was granted a three-month leave of absence from his council duties from December 1880 to March 1881, possibly time taken to visit his daughter, Ellen, in Kyneton.

For eight years, James continued to serve on the council until charismatic John Cleeland unseated him by a narrow margin in August 1886.

In 1888, James' daughter Ellen, who at the time resided in Serpentine, 52 kms north of Bendigo, married Henry John Boreham, a miner in Maldon.



Tragically, Ellen's life was cut short just 10 months later, succumbing to peritonitis at the young age of 25.

In 1911, James' devoted housekeeper and companion, Eliza Coghlan, passed away in Rhyll at the remarkable age of purportedly 113. Within months of her passing, James sold his land at Rhyll to Octavius Boys for £500 and embarked on a visit back to his homeland.

Upon his arrival in London, James took up residence in Essex, renting a room in a tenement building in West Ham. It was there that he contracted influenza. Throughout his illness, he received regular visits from an acquaintance from Phillip Island, Lucy Rose, who had also returned to England, as well as his niece, Elizabeth Jamieson, from Aberdeen. Tragically, James succumbed to his illness in June 1912. It has been reported that, following his passing, approximately 600 sovereigns were discovered concealed within his mattress.

According to official records, James' estate in Australia was valued at £921, which he bequeathed to family members and a friend in Scotland. In his will, James expressed his desire to be laid to rest alongside his wife Ellen in Kyneton Cemetery, with "a suitable headstone and railing" to the value of £20 installed on her grave, as well as on the grave of his loyal housekeeper, Eliza Coghlan. Unfortunately, his wishes were not fulfilled, and he was interred in London, never returning to his beloved adopted homeland.



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

Rhyll Community Association Inc Committee Members:

President	Jim Kiley	jandkkiley@bigpond.com
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