

Winchelsea Star

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Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

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winchelseastar.org.au



Ash Wednesday Remembered 40 Years On

Article page 7. IMAGE: Keith Cecil family collection – Aireys Pub



The “River Moorabool”

Last December Winchelsea Land and Rivercare group showed “the River Moorabool” documentary movie at the Globe. The movie was made by People for A Living Moorabool (PALM) and Sheoaks Films.

This compelling film explores the consequences of water demands on the

Moorabool River, particularly in the face of climate change. The Moorabool is a tributary of the Barwon river which faces similar demands of water for Geelong.

The screening to an audience of 45 was followed by panel discussion and questions. The panel comprised Simone Wilkie from the Water and Catchments group of DELWP, Cameron Steele from PALM and Jim Lidgerwood who grew up

on the river at Birregurra and currently manages a property on the river. Panel members were further questioned over supper.

If you missed the screening, the movie can be viewed online at the PALM website.

Below: Simone and Cameron were further questioned over supper.



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No holds.



Lions thank you dinner

Last Friday Winchelsea Lions Club held their annual thank you night at the Golf Club. This occasion is to thank all those non Lions who have helped the club during the last year in many different ways.

It was a lovely night with Robbie Clark's delicious roast and baked spuds and an amazing array of salads and desserts provided by members. I am always amazed at the wonderful variety.

We were entertained by "Band on the Run" and drinks provided by our famous

barman Greg. A fun night and a fitting thank you to all our helpers.

Don't forget our annual Australia Day breakfast will be on Thursday January 26th, 8-30 to 10-30 at the Rotunda.

Linda Carter. Photos Cheryl Mawson.





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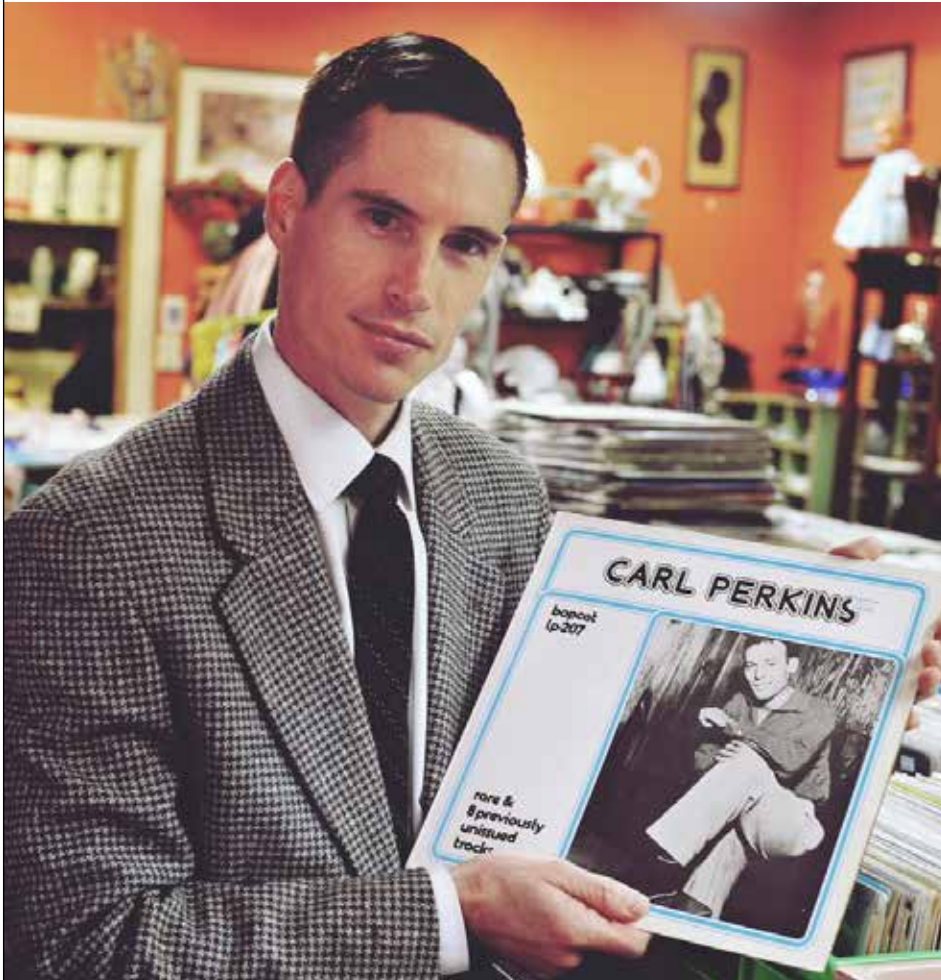
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Below: John Thomas Lennox



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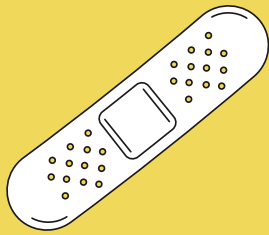
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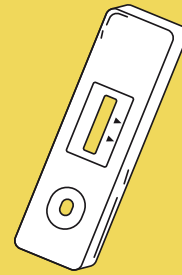
Staying well this summer can be as easy as



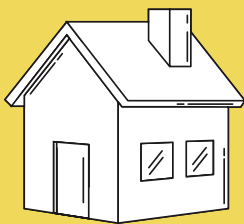
staying up to date with your booster vaccine.



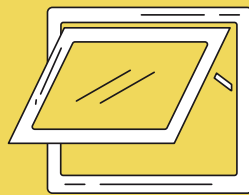
talking to your doctor: if you are at risk of becoming unwell, you may be eligible for COVID medicines.



always testing with a RAT if you feel unwell.



staying home if you feel unwell.



catching up outdoors or in places with open doors and windows.



wearing a mask when it's crowded indoors.

Q coronavirus.vic.gov.au

STAY WELL THIS SUMMER

Winchelsea Community House Expo

The Winchelsea Community House is holding an Expo in the Shire Hall on Friday 24th February from 2.00pm until 7.00pm.

2023 is slowly bringing us back into contact with one another - Growing Winchelsea has its wonderful initiatives underway, the Men's Shed is operating, the Op Shop is open, the Community Market is on monthly, and The Community House has put together its program for term one.

We are welcoming new people to Winchelsea and surrounds. The Expo is for community organisations to introduce themselves.

If you are interested in being involved there are a few spots left - send an email to reception@winchhouse.org.au

If you are planning to come along to learn more about your community there will be plenty of opportunities to talk, to register as a volunteer, or to become involved in other ways.

The Expo is free for community groups and free for people to visit.

There will be food for sale - courtesy of a local wood fired pizza operator, as well as a BBQ, icy poles, and perhaps a cup of coffee.



Ash Wednesday Remembered 40 Years On

Surf Coast Shire Council will host a community event to mark the 40th anniversary of the Ash Wednesday bushfires, providing a space for people to come together in memory and tribute.

Ash Wednesday Remembered – 40 Years On will also acknowledge the community spirit which provided a foundation for the region's recovery.

The event will be at Aireys Inlet Community Centre from noon to 2pm on 16 February 2023.

Ash Wednesday's inferno torched 41,000 hectares across the Otways

region, burning from Deans Marsh to Lorne on the wings of a ferocious northerly wind and then up the coast to Anglesea under the influence of an aggressive south-westerly change.

It claimed three lives, 729 homes, 53 other buildings, many livestock and many kilometres of fencing.

"Ash Wednesday left a black scar across a significant part of what we now know as the Surf Coast Shire," Councillor Gary Allen said.

"Given the magnitude of the event, and the abrupt way it changed so many lives, it is important that we acknowledge this significant

anniversary.

"Our commemorative event is for people from across the shire. It will be an informal event that will include some presentations. We primarily aim to bring people together to remember and reflect.

"Though Ash Wednesday is now four decades distant, the memories can be terribly close. Support will be available for any people who might find themselves encountering uncomfortable memories or emotions."

People can register for the event via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/AshWednesday.

Winchelsea Star

Articles are most welcome and must carry the name and address of the sender.

Weekly deadline is 5pm Friday.

Copy for sports results and weekend events is Sunday 6pm (4pm for hard-copy articles/results left at IGA) unless by prior arrangement.

Copy should be emailed to news@winchelseastar.org.au or left at IGA Supermarket.

The Winchelsea Star reserves the right to edit or not publish any article.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Winchelsea Star or its Committee.

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Winchelsea Star Organisation Inc.
Reg. No. A1479, ABN: 57 207 411 958
winchelseastar.org.au
Po Box 5, Winchelsea, Vic, 3241

Editors:

Cerrie Fogan, Yvonne Stevens
Judy Cameron
editor@winchelseastar.org.au

Advertising:

Sasha Gauntlett and Neil McInnes
advertising@winchelseastar.org.au
0408 102 802

Layout/Sub Editors:

Susan Corby, Charles Corby
Stuart Fountain
production@winchelseastar.org.au

Committee

President: Mick O'Mara
president@winchelseastar.org.au

Treasurer: Cathy Cheadle
treasurer@winchelseastar.org.au

Secretary: Tony Phelps
secretary@winchelseastar.org.au

Committee Members:
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Printer: Mud Group
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Australia Day eliminated from Shire events calendar

Heather Wellington (Councillor for Winchelsea Ward)

Surf Coast Shire Council has adopted its 'Awareness Raising Events Calendar' for 2023. With the community, Council will promote and celebrate twelve significant events over the year.

Some councillors have pursued the 'de-recognition' of Australia Day for some years. In 2021, Council dropped Australia Day from its events calendar. At its pre-Christmas meeting in 2022, Council voted to mark 26 January 2023 with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners on a Pilk Purriyn ('sunrise') day of reflection. Again, Australia Day is eliminated from the events calendar.

Many residents who have raised this issue with me acknowledge the hurt and sorrow many Indigenous Australians feel on 26 January each year. Some residents support a change of date for our national day. Almost universally, however, they want the Shire to celebrate contemporary Australia with the community on the date designated

by the Australian Government as our national day. Many described the Council's de-recognition of Australia Day as disappointingly divisive and beyond its mandate.

As a health care professional and humanitarian, I would like our national day to be celebrated on another date, when everyone can participate in a positive spirit. I also think the Australian Government must work much more effectively with indigenous Australians to address the enormous disadvantage many of them continue to suffer. Until the date of Australia Day changes, however, eliminating it from the Shire's events calendar is divisive and hurtful to many in the Surf Coast Community. It's wrong to try to address an existing problem by creating a new one.

The current Australian Government has the power to change the date of Australia Day but has explicitly rejected calls to do so and continues to encourage Councils to acknowledge its significance.

Councillors who support de-recognition of our national day claim the community supports their stance, but policy decisions such as these should not be made solely on the basis of majority views. Further, majority support cannot be claimed without evidence – yet there is none. Council's consultation has been limited to indigenous groups alone.

Despite Council's de-recognition of Australia Day, many indigenous and non-indigenous members of our community will continue to celebrate the day, with many no doubt also reflecting deeply on Australia's treatment of indigenous peoples and committing to a more just and united future. I intend to celebrate the day well and I hope that as I move around the Shire on 26 January I see many community members doing the same. I will be attending the Winchelsea Lions Club Australia Day breakfast and town get-together on the day.

26 January

Comments attributed to Surf Coast Shire Mayor Cr Liz Pattison:

"In September 2021, the Surf Coast Shire Council resolved to not formally take part in Australia Day celebrations, and to fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags at half-mast on 26 January.

We understand celebrating our nation is important to our community and that many community members will

celebrate on 26 January. Council's resolution does not seek to diminish the value of such a celebration, instead we believe our national day should be held on a different date.

First Nations Reconciliation is the first theme in our Council Plan, which is based on community feedback that this should be one of Council's key priorities.

Our path to Reconciliation will be long

and complex. We need to build trust through our words and actions. An important step in this path is acknowledging that 26 January is a difficult day for First Nations people.

Our goal in making a commitment to Reconciliation is to work toward shared understanding and mutual respect. Our view is that Reconciliation benefits us all and will make for a fairer and stronger community.



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Sat and Sun

8:47am, 2:49pm, 8:37pm

Country Women's Association



7pm Second Wednesday of Month
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Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019

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Scouts: Tuesdays of school term
6:30-8:30pm

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Changed flow conditions in the Barwon River West Branch

High flows in the upper Barwon River in winter, spring and early summer 2022, have eroded the Barwon River West branch in the Boundary Rd vicinity. This erosion has resulted in river flows breaking out of the main river channel and travelling down an old channel system on private property before re-joining the main channel approximately 6 km downstream. This change in flow has resulted in the low flow conditions in the main channel of the upper Barwon River West branch.

In accordance with the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy the Corangamite CMA manages works on large scale waterway erosion and has a role to limit the risk to public assets where the river has changed course.

The Corangamite CMA has commissioned consultants to investigate the changed flow conditions and determine appropriate short term and long-term remediation options. The Corangamite CMA will undertake emergency works as identified by the investigation to overcome the immediate issue before longer term works are undertaken.

With current conditions environmental water from the upper Barwon River entitlement will not be released down the Barwon River West branch to avoid

water entering the old channel system and causing flooding of private property downstream. Under normal conditions environmental water releases in the West Branch can be up to 30 ML/day.

On behalf of the Corangamite CMA, Barwon Water will be commencing release of environmental water down the Barwon River East branch soon, at 3-4 ML/day to avoid flooding private land.

Across the Barwon River system above Inverleigh, there has been rapid changes to river flow caused by the transition from wet to drier conditions, and if hot and dry conditions persist, past experience shows that the river is likely to cease to flow down to Inverleigh.



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St John's Catholic Church

Harding St, Winchelsea 3241
Father Joseph Panackal
0404598558

St Thomas' Anglican Church

Barwon Tce, Winchelsea
Rev'd A. Lynne Clarke
stthomaswac@gmail.com
0477 672 042

All the churches of Winchelsea are happy to welcome any who would like to join them for worship.

St Thomas' Anglican Church

in Barwon Terrace.
St Thomas Anglican Church meets for worship at 10.00 am every Sunday
Phone Rev Lynne Clarke 0477 672 042
stthomaswac@gmail.com

Winchelsea Uniting Church

in Hesse Street meets at 9.30 am every Sunday morning.
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uca.winchelsea@gmail.com

St John's Catholic Church

In Harding Street meets for Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday evenings.
Please contact Anita, 0409 432 833 or
Father Joseph Panackal, 0404 598 558

Thought for the Week

"Be very careful, then, on how you live.
Not as unwise but as wise people, Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are or can be very evil."

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Women's Workshop

Any ladies out there who are interested in learning some workshop and home maintenance skills?

The Winch Mens' Shed are running free workshops starting in August. Let us know what you would like to learn and what days and times are most suitable. We can tailor the workshop to cover what is most requested and on days that suit most.

If you are interested in attending please contact the Men's Shed on 0407839139 (Ray) or email winchmenshed@gmail.com

Supporting the health of the Anglesea River

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action together with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Barwon Water are working to support the health of Anglesea River.

Our work will protect the environment, benefit local communities and ensure the river remains a popular destination for Victorians.

In recent weeks the level of the Anglesea River has dropped, creating a significant risk of activating acid sulfate soils at Coogoorah Park and releasing metals and acids into the river system.

While the River remains safe for water-based recreation, to prevent a significant impact on Anglesea's aquatic environment, DEECA (formerly DELWP) has requested Barwon Water to release stored water into the Anglesea River to reduce the risk of activating acid sulfate soils in Coogoorah Park.

While the stored water may contribute to increasing the acidity of the river, the risk of continued low water levels in the estuary is considered a greater risk due to its potential to activate additional areas of acid sulphate soils - a more significant and irreversible overall risk to the health of the Anglesea River.

DEECA has also worked with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, and

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria to minimise risks to native fish in the estuary.

The river is continuing to be monitored and if its pH or dissolved oxygen level reaches a trigger point harmful to fish, DEECA will request the Surf Coast Shire Council conduct an artificial estuary opening to allow fish to move and reduce the likelihood of a fish death event occurring. This action has not been taken before and will act as an important trial.

DEECA and Corangamite CMA may also coordinate manual fish rescue to remove fish if required.

Corangamite CMA will continue to monitor water quality conditions and seek opportunities to expand the monitoring network through Citizen Science programs.

More detail on how organisations are working together to manage the Anglesea River can be found at: <https://ccma.vic.gov.au/supporting-the-health-of-the-anglesea-river-estuary/>



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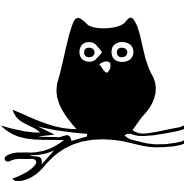
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Barwon Water Annual Report tabled

A proactive support program to help customers facing financial hardship, planning for a secure water future, reducing emissions and waste, and completing more than \$53.2 million in vital water and sewerage infrastructure works are among highlights from Barwon Water's 2021-22 annual report, tabled in Parliament in December.

Managing Director Tracey Slatter said Barwon Water had maintained its commitment to keeping prices low and delivering affordable, safe and secure water services to customers while at the same time investing more than \$53 million to replace and upgrade water and sewerage infrastructure as well as building new water infrastructure in places like Armstrong Creek to support future growth.

The 2021-22 annual report is available on Barwon Water's website.

Highlights from the annual report include:

- Submitted our Urban Water Strategy - Water for our Future to the Water Minister
- Implemented recycled water initiatives, including increasing recycled water use on the Bellarine thanks to a Victorian government grant of \$7.5 million to upgrade the Portarlington Water Reclamation Plant
- Our operations made a significant positive contribution to our region's economy and liveability. During 2021-22, we generated revenues of \$255 million supported by \$3.2 billion in assets.
- \$53.2 million invested to replace and upgrade water and sewerage

infrastructure as well as building new water infrastructure in places like Armstrong Creek to support future growth

- Continuing to have one of the lowest average residential bills for water businesses with more than 100,000 customers with average bills continuing to fall in real terms
- Embarking on our next Price Submission engagement to inform our 2023-28 price period plan which again proposes price reductions for average bills (in real terms).
- Working with both Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owners to help guide us in how we source, move and potentially return water to rivers
- Working with Reconciliation Australia, local Traditional Owners and Aboriginal groups on the development of our second Reconciliation Action Plan
- Working closely with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, other stakeholders and the local community to transform two of our disused sites (Porronggitj Karrong in Breakwater and our Bellarine Basin site on the Bellarine) into more than 95 hectares of environmental and public open space
- Winning the Australian Water Association's National Organisational Excellence Award for our Aboriginal Employment and Retention Strategy
- Working collaboratively with local agencies and councils to deliver our Customer Support Strategy and help customers experiencing hardship
- Continuing to help customers conserve water through the delivery of a number of

water efficiency programs including leak detection and repair

- Continuing the delivery of our Customer Affordability Pipeline, which through efficiency, innovation and improved practices will have generated \$40 million of savings over five years, to ensure we can maintain the prices we committed to throughout 2018-23
- Implementing and planning for Renewable Organics Networks (RONs) for Colac and the broader G21 region to reduce organic waste to landfill, create renewable energy, generate jobs and drive economic growth through a circular economy
- Partnering with Barwon Health and GeelongPort on the Barwon Region Power Purchase Agreement from the Mount Gellibrand Windfarm, which means Barwon Water will meet its renewable energy use targets ahead of schedule
- Continuing to work collaboratively with our customers, community, stakeholders and industry through key projects including Water for our Future, the RONs, the Aqueduct
- Continuing to work proactively with community members, independent experts and stakeholders to remediate the confirmed impacts of historic groundwater management at Boundary Creek and Big Swamp.
- We also continued to progress the sale of surplus property under the Barwon Water Property Realisation Program to keep customer bills low.

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Winchelsea Osteopath

Introducing Nick Balic, Osteopath to the Winchelsea area.

As an Osteopath, Nick is highly trained to diagnose and treat all regions of the neuro-musculoskeletal body - that includes the bones, muscles, nerves, tendons and ligaments. He graduated with a Master of Osteopathy from Victoria University in Melbourne.

Nick gets his drive from seeing people overcome the hurdles of pain and physical dysfunction. He enjoys treating a wide range of conditions for all age groups.

He also has a special interest in sports injury diagnosis and rehabilitation which sees him working alongside the Winchelsea Football Club aiding with injury management.

He provides a careful, firm, structural approach to treatment, including soft tissue, articulatory and manipulative techniques.

Nick is also qualified in dry needling which is very helpful for pain and impaired function.



Nick comes highly recommended and will be commencing work out of the Winchelsea Medical Clinic's Allied Health Facility (32-4 Main Street - The Old Post Office) on Tuesdays from the 24th of January 2023.

To celebrate, and to get to know you, Nick is offering \$10 off initial consultations, simply mention that you saw this article in the Winchelsea Star.

For bookings:

Email: nick@newtownosteopathy.com.au

Website: newtownosteopathy.com.au
(booking online available)

COVID-19 Weekly Data

There were 4,912 COVID-19 cases reported in Victoria this week.

There are currently 324 COVID patients in Victorian hospitals. In the past three months, 6,019 COVID patients were hospitalised in Victoria

A total of 156 COVID-related deaths were reported to the Department in the past week. Of those deaths, 46.9 per cent were unvaccinated and 52.6 per cent had not received their third COVID vaccine dose.

The total number of reported COVID-related deaths in Victoria since the pandemic began is 6,794.

An increase in reported deaths was expected following recent periods of high transmission in the community. Transmission is being driven by multiple Omicron variants.

The risk of COVID infection can increase through large family and social gatherings. It is important to consider older family and friends and those who may be more vulnerable to severe COVID illness.

- Plan ahead this summer and consider the following tips to ensure you can enjoy the festivities safely.
- Plan your party or family gathering outside when possible
- Get tested if you have symptoms or you're going to a party or family gathering
- Keep homes well ventilated, with windows and doors open
- Wear a high-quality mask, especially where you can't physically distance from others

- Isolate for at least five days and until you have no symptoms
- Check if you are eligible for COVID medicines
- Get your next vaccine dose
- Protecting yourself is the best way to protect you and the community – If you don't get COVID, you can't spread COVID
- Early testing for COVID and diagnosis are essential to access COVID medicines. For most COVID medicine to work best, you must take it within five days of getting sick – the earlier the better.

Information on eligibility, and how to report a positive rapid antigen test result, can be found at the Coronavirus website www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

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7 th May	5 th November
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Community Satisfaction Survey 2023

Six hundred people will be interviewed as part of the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

The annual survey seeks to understand Council's performance over the past year.

The survey will be carried out via random phone interviews with ratepayers from 1 February.




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Planning and Environment Act 1987
 SURF COAST PLANNING SCHEME



Notice of the preparation of an Amendment to a Planning Scheme and Notice of an Application for a Planning Permit given under Section 96C of the Planning and Environment Act 1987

AMENDMENT C138
Planning Permit Application PG21/0085

The Surf Coast Shire Council has prepared Amendment C138surf to the Surf Coast Planning Scheme.

The land affected by the Amendment applies to 25 Cressy Road, Winchelsea (Crown Allotments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 on Title Plan 317193G, Section 72 Parish of Mirnee).

Amendment C138 proposes to rezone 3.9 hectares of Farming Zone land to the Industrial 1 Zone and apply the Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 5.

The planning permit application seeks approval for a 23 lot subdivision. A draft planning permit has been prepared and is exhibited as part of this amendment.

You may inspect the amendment, any documents that support the amendment and the explanatory report about the amendment, free of charge, at:

- the Surf Coast Shire Council website surfcoast.vic.gov.au/C138
- the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website delwp.vic.gov.au/public-inspection

If you are unable to access the internet to view the Amendment documents please make contact with the Strategic Planning Team on **03 5261 0600**.

Alternative arrangements will be made to ensure that you can view all relevant documents during the exhibition period.

Any person who may be affected by the amendment may make a submission to the planning authority about the amendment. Submissions must be made in writing giving the submitter's name and contact address, clearly stating the grounds on which the amendment is supported or opposed and indicating what changes (if any) the submitter wishes to make.

Name and contact details of submitters are required for council to consider submissions and to notify such persons of the opportunity to attend council meetings and any public hearing held to consider submissions.

The closing date for submissions is Monday the 27 February, 2023. A submission must be sent to the Coordinator Strategic Land Use Planning, PO Box 350, Torquay, VIC 3228 or submitted online via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/C138.

The planning authority must make a copy of every submission available at its office and/or on its website for any person to inspect free of charge for two months after the amendment comes into operation or lapses.

Michelle Warren - Acting Strategic Land Use Planning Coordinator




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