



MEDIA RELEASE

December 15 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A COVIDSafe Summer on the Coast

Staying COVIDSafe whilst on the coast is at the centre of everything on the Barwon Coast this summer.

Barwon Coast CEO, Gary McPike said "Things won't be business as usual on the coast this summer. We have changed the way we are managing the coast in a number of ways to operate in a COVIDSafe manner".

"The Barwon Coast Committee have made the difficult decision to cancel the New Years' Eve Fireworks display from the Barwon Heads Bluff."

"The annual display draws thousands of visitors to the Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads' foreshore and holding such an event would place unnecessary risk on members of the public, Barwon Coast staff, Police and Emergency Services."

"We know that this will be very disappointing for some, but we feel it is a decision that also respects the commitment by our community and visitors to keep the region COVIDSafe."

The decision is one being mirrored across the state with announcements of cancelled fireworks displays coming from Portland and Warrnambool in the southwest, right through metro Melbourne and across to Phillip Island.

"The Barwon Coast Beach Bus will also not be operating. We are reviewing this service and its contribution to the reduction of car parking issues on the coast. The Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre (The Lobster Pot) will not open this summer. The dedicated volunteers will be working to reopen in the near future."

"While summer will be a little bit different this year, some things will be the same."

"Our caravan parks and seasonal campground are operating with COVIDSafe measures in place, as are the public amenities we provide along the coast".

"We are also pleased to announce that the Wonderland Spiegeltent will be operating on the Barwon Heads with a spectacular program of live entertainment for all ages. They are operating with a COVIDSafe Plan as are all commercial operators on the coast."

See www.wonderlandspiegeltent.com.au for booking and show details.



Before heading out to one of the Barwon Coast's beautiful beaches, playgrounds or coastal trails this summer, Barwon Coast are asking that you stay prepared and safe by planning ahead first.

Gary McPike said "Being ready for increased visitor numbers, long waits at busy locations, and knowing how to keep safe when swimming, boating and exercising, helps us all keep enjoying the Barwon Coast together."

Barwon Coast are asking everyone when on the coast to remember a few key steps

- Keep 1.5m distance from people you don't live with. When on the beach '*Embrace the Space*'.
- Keep swims safe, by checking safety signs before entering the water, swimming between the flags and always supervising children closely;
- Keep a face mask handy at all times;
- At the first sign of any symptoms, get tested then stay home; and
- Keep updated at [CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

-ENDS-

Images:

<https://bit.ly/3mkfvRA>

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Notes for Editors:

Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) is appointed by the Victorian State Government to manage 15km of coastal Crown land through the Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads townships, along the Bass Strait coast of the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, Australia. Our vision is that the natural environment of our coastline will flourish whilst meeting the needs of our engaged communities. A major local employer in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove, we have more than 50 skilled employees from a diverse range of backgrounds working across the coastal reserve.

www.barwoncoast.com.au