

EDITORIAL

Frankston Independent 4/12/2007

 **FRANKSTON**
INDEPENDENT Incorporating **weekender**

Tuesday, December 4, 2007 frankstonindependent.com.au Fairfax Community Network Phone: 5979 3199 Classifieds: 13 24 25 Price: 50c (inc GST)

Seal of protection

THIS juvenile Australian fur seal spent the day on Frankston beach near the pier last Friday gathering its wits before heading out into Port Phillip Bay to start the next stage of life. Frankston Council ranger Kris Paule protected the young seal from 7am to 4.30pm before it roused itself and left on the high tide.

The council's natural reserves team leader, Kevin Alexander, said the council and Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue and Education teamed up to guard the seal, which was about a year old and had probably been pushed away by its mother to learn how to fend for itself. AWARE president Michelle Thomas said the seal's natural instinct had kicked in and it had headed out to sea to find food. She said anyone who found a young seal on the beach should leave it alone. "Seals don't dehydrate so don't need water. If you disturb a seal, its metabolism rises and drains its energy levels so it's best to stay away from them." Ms Thomas said dogs should be kept at least 50 metres from any seal. "Seal bites on dogs can take up to a year to heal."

Picture: Gary Sissons



TODAY

Mayoral time



Time is up for Frankston mayor Glenn Altken – or is it? He's going again – page 27

Booze bust



He's polite, friendly and is trying to make a difference. Meet Peter Grierson – page 17

Road art