



# The Penguin

**Newsletter of Phillip Island Conservation Society Fourth Quarter,  
December 2009**



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## Dates for Your Diary 2010

**Sun 27 Dec - Sun 3 Jan:** "Summer Land" Photographic exhibition by PICS member Keith Head. Newhaven Hall. All proceeds to PICS. Gold coin donation entry. Everyone welcome!

**Sat Jan 9 2010 - Children's Environment Morning.** 11 am - 12 noon. Heritage Centre Meeting Room. "Bees" with apiarist David Severino. Free. Enqs: Christine ph 5956 8501

**Sat Jan 9 2010 AGM** Parish Hall, Cowes. 6.30 p.m. bring a plate (first course or dessert) to share for a sit-down meal. Speaker: Mike Cleeland & Ella Boyen on the latest SCIENCE on global warming. Followed by AGM.

**Sun Jan 10 - Red Rocks Coast Action Working Bee:** 10 a.m. Meet at car park. Rubbish removal & maintenance.

**Sat Feb 13 - Children's Environment Morning.** As above. "Butterflies".

**Sat Feb 20 - Seasonal Walk** 2 p.m. Rowell's Swamp, Rhyll. Meet at Conservation Hill car park. (easy walking)

**Sun 7 March - Clean Up Australia Day** PICS & FOK will be cleaning up at Five Ways. Meet opp the intersection of cnr of Coghlan Rd and Harbison Rd, 10 a.m.

**Sat March 13 - Children's Environment Morning.** As above.

"Chemistry for Children".

**Sat April 10 - Children's Environment Morning.** As above.  
"Microscope Morning".

**Sat April 10 - PICS General Meeting.** Speaker TBA. Heritage Centre Meeting Room, 8 p.m.

**Sun April 11 - Red Rocks Coast Action Working Bee:** 10 a.m.  
Meet at car park. Rubbish/maintenance

**Sat May 8 - Children's Environment Morning.** As above.  
"Sharks".

**Sat May 15 - Seasonal Walk** 2 p.m. Berry's Beach walking track.  
Meet at car park. (average walking)

**Sat June 5 - World Environment Day.** The Bass Coast Shire's WED Expo will be held around this time. PICS will once again mount an interactive display and Christine may be calling for volunteers to help set up.

**Sat June 12 - Children's Environment Morning.** As above.  
"Polar Bears" - the symbol of global warming; but what are they really like?

**Sat July 3 - PICS General Meeting.** Speaker TBA. Heritage Centre Meeting Room, 8 p.m.

**Sun July 4 - Red Rocks Coast Action Working Bee:** 10 a.m.  
Meet at car park. Planting morning.

**Sat. Aug 21 - Seasonal Walk** 2p.m. Red Rocks to Cowes along the fire track. Come and see the biggest trees on Phillip Island! (small bit of clambering involved, otherwise easy walking) Meet at Red Rocks car park.

**Sat Oct 2 - PICS General Meeting.** Speaker TBA. Heritage Centre Meeting Room, 8 p.m.

**Sun Oct 3 - Red Rocks Coast Action Working Bee:** 10 a.m.  
Meet at car park. Weed control

**Sat Oct 9 - Children's Environment Morning** Program TBA

**Sat Nov 13 - Children's Environment Morning** Program TBA

**Sat Nov 20 - Seasonal Walk** 2 p.m. Forrest Caves to new Surf Beach viewing platform along the Esplanade. Meet at Forrest Caves car park. (easy walking)

**Sat Dec 11 - Children's Environment Morning** Program TBA

**Sat Jan 8 2011 - PICS AGM.**

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**Barb Martin Bush Bank:** Sales and volunteers - every Wednesday plus 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month 10 - 1. Phone

Anne Davie 5956 8216.

**Friends of Koalas (FOK) Habitat Days:** First Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. Contact Patsy Hunt ph 5952 2407

**Koala Count** at the Koala Conservation Centre, second Tuesday of every month at 10am. Contact Patsy Hunt ph 5952 2407

**Biosphere - Bass Coast Round Table** meets at San Remo on the third Friday of every month at 8 p.m. Contact Jane Jobe, convenor, ph 0409 530 898.

**Friends of Churchill Island (FOCIS):** email: [focis2009@hotmail.com](mailto:focis2009@hotmail.com).

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Dear Members,**

We held a street stall on Saturday 28 November. How one measures the success of such ventures is hard to tell, but we met interested and interesting people who have the well-being of Phillip Island as a high priority and were able to welcome a new member.

At the Annual General Meeting on 9.1.10 we will be electing the Office Bearers and Committee. Should you stand for election? Please have a think about this issue, there's lots of work to be done and we need people to offer their skills, their time and their commitment. When does the Committee meet? Well, that's a decision for the incoming Committee, and can be settled after the AGM.

I wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas, a very happy New Year, and I hope that you will be at the AGM on the second Saturday of January.

With best wishes,

**Margaret Hancock, President.**

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## WANTED: Secretary for PICS.

We have a Minutes Secretary, but need a General Secretary. Main duties are dealing with correspondence and typing reports and submissions. (New laptop provided) Other

committee members deal with duties such as meetings, walks, booking dates, arranging speakers, etc. If you know of someone who could be approached to be our Secretary - even if not a member at present - and who you know agrees with our aims, could you please let Margaret Hancock know as soon as possible. Phone: 5952 2557.

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## **PICS SEASONAL WALK: CAPE WOOMAI: CLEELAND BIGHT TRACK**

For our seasonal walk in November, 7 members and associates gathered at the surf beach carpark. Before leaving the carpark, we examined a fine example of Cape Woolamai granite that Mike Cleeland had brought along. Christine Grayden used a mini-dune nearby and a dibble spade to then demonstrate how her uncle Keith Grayden dug all the holes for the dune reclamation project (1974-1984). She then showed the group how the marram was planted in the holes.

Walking up the road about 80 metres, we came upon the track sign-posted "Cleeland Bight. 400m via track". At a leisurely pace, it takes about 15 minutes to reach the north-east edge of the Cape Woolamai tie bar, or tombola; the band of sand dunes that connect the granite mass at the end of the Cape with the rest of Phillip Island. The first section of the track has been gouged deeply into the dunes by the passage of many feet. Care is needed to negotiate some exposed roots, which, spreading widely, gave us an idea of how far the coast wattle, coast everlasting and other shrubs need to extend to gather enough moisture for survival. Indeed, the track takes us through an excellent example of successful dune revegetation, where prior to the 1970s there was little more than bare mobile sand. Some of us could remember, as kids, running up and tumbling down these shifting dunes, their surfaces sprinkled with chunks of calcarenite, that form of dune limestone that had often collected around the roots of a pre-settlement coastal scrubland.

In the reclamation work of the 1970s and 80s, first marram grass was established, with broadcast fertilizer, then followed up with the planting of indigenous shrubs and ground cover. Despite some present-day dieback of coast wattle, there are few bare areas now. Wallaby tracks are numerous, and one wonders whether grazing pressure from wallabies is limiting natural establishment of new seedlings, or will in the future. Small birds are also quite numerous. On the more sheltered dunes closer to Cleeland Bight, large coast banksias are evident. Mediterranean snails are commonly seen, but may not be a pest.

Reaching Cleeland Bight, we found the beach backed by steep, eroding sand cliffs, making access down to the beach difficult for the less able. The high tide, and the large number of fallen coast teatree and banksias that have been dislodged and litter the upper beach, on this occasion prevented us from continuing the walk towards the old Granite Quarry site, about another 40 minutes further to the south east.

We took the opportunity to spot various landmarks on the San Remo peninsula across the Eastern Passage, and to enjoy the view up to the bridge. Sand from this eroding beach is carried by tidal currents towards the bridge, nourishing the foredunes past Homestead Pt, the site of Woolamai House, the old Cleeland homestead.

We re-traced our steps back to the carpark, and while some retired for the day, the rest of the party continued on up the central track, as far as the staircase at the south-east end of the Cape Woolamai surf beach. They returned along the beach to the car park, to conclude an invigorating walk.

*John Eddy*

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## PHILLIP ISLAND STRUCTURE PLAN: C88

Our thanks go to members Terry Nott (convenor), Margaret Hancock, Bessie Tyers, Bob Baird and Christine Grayden, and friend John Barnard QC, for all their work on the Rhyll Inlet Working Group preparing our submission on the area east of Coghlan Road for the Planning Panels Victoria hearing into the Structure Plan. These RIWG members made submissions for PICS on birdlife, potential acid sulphate soils, landscape issues and vegetation, which the Panel would not have got any other way. Terry had also prepared many maps which clearly illustrated the various points made by the four RIWG speakers. Margaret Hancock also presented material for PICS on other areas covered by the Structure Plan - i.e. especially Ventnor and many issues regarding Cowes such as availability of undeveloped land, traffic flows, supermarket placement, the value of caravan parks and public open space.

The presenters felt they had received a very good hearing, even though PICS was the last of the 'locals' to present to the Panel after four days of hearings, and that at the conclusion of our presentation the Panel members had a very good understanding of the environmental issues. We are still studying the newly released outcomes of the two week Panel hearing, but we do know that no extensions to the Ventnor township boundary will be allowed, and for the proposal for subdivision was rejected above the Rhyll Inlet for much of the

land there. A fuller report of the report's conclusions will be given at the AGM.

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## MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERN PORT BIOSPHERE

**SPEAKER 2: Cecelia Witton, CEO, Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere: *Biosphere Reserves in a Changing World* at the Bass Coast Shire Environment Groups Get together, 29.8.09**

The Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Biosphere was declared in 2002 and the Foundation established in 2003. Run by a Board with provision for Roundtables in each of the local government areas. Two main ongoing programs:

1. Watson Creek Integrated Catchment Management Program. Getting together people who would not normally talk in a no blame situation to find solutions to complex catchment problems.
2. Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Program in the Kooweerup, Bayles area involving a number of bodies such as DSE, Melbourne Water. Fox control program.

- Overseas Biospheres: Jeju Island, Republic of Korea Biosphere and World Heritage Area. Has a 600 mw power wind farm. Aiming for all renewable energy by 2050. 84% of their gdp comes from tourism.

Conference was called Climate Change and Island and Coastal Ecosystems

- Commander Island National and Biosphere Reserve - joint Russia/America - monitoring of seabirds
- Sunderbands, India. Overfishing and inundation of farmland by rising sea levels. Many people can no longer farm so the young gravitate to the cities, those remaining = the new poor.
- Palawan, Phillipines - issues are same as everywhere: resources, water, food, population.
- Cape West Coast, South Africa. Bad developments, farming issues, climate change. Increase in sea temperature due to climate change forced fish stocks to move. Mass death of lobsters due to hotter water.

Cecelia attended a conference in Jeju in May 2009 where she was able to promote our Biosphere and exchange much information. Biospheres were created before World Heritage, but many Biospheres are also WH sites. Her presentation focused on satellite mapping of our region.

- Indonesia has an abundance and diversity of natural resources, but also examples of severe exploitation. Logging in Sumatra has been monitored for 50 years, over which time it has reduced to less than approx 10%. The local population is under intense pressure to sell the timber to earn a living.

There are 15 Biospheres in Australia. Most are also National Parks.

- Conference on Ecotourism: How can Biospheres do it right? World wide tourism involves 700m travellers and is worth \$6.5 trillion. Nowadays people can seek a different type of tourism experience from just staying in resorts: e.g. paying to remove crown of thorns starfish from reefs. Ecotourism needs to make a profit, create social benefit and be inclusive of local culture, i.e. create respect for land and culture.

Climate change will create effects on tourism industry.

Example of Africa where shrinking water holes, increasing temperature leading to increased evaporation, "hot spots" becoming too hot, and spread of disease (e.g. malaria from mosquitoes being able to live in areas previously too mild to support them).

The conferences resulted in valuable outcomes:

- Networking
- Showcase various Biospheres
- Gain an understanding of international work
- Learn about the Biospheres in other countries
- Increased understanding of climate change impacts
- Realize that issues being faced are world wide.

Future issues the MP&WP Biosphere may tackle:

- Encourage another Shapiro-style study
- Define sustainability indicators
- A mass balance project looking at inputs and outputs of power, water and waste
- Biodiversity inventory
- Facilitation of a waste management program
- Raising cultural awareness.

## **QUESTIONS:**

- Is "Sustainability" meaningless? Needs to have triple bottom line: environmental, economic and social.
- What about airline traffic, which contributes to climate change but is intrinsically tied up with tourism? Depends on part of the world. Australia = distance, but in Europe planes are not essential to get around. May come a time when airlines set limits on how far you can fly.

- What is the Biosphere's role with the Port of Hastings development? Hopefully we can ensure that there is a proper Environment Effects Statement process. The Biosphere needs to be at the table and make sure the science is presented and informed decisions are made. Our role is not to be an activist against issues, but to have informed input.

- Is there hope for Sumatra? They are now looking to get medicines from the plants there to give the local people an income from the forests other than logging.

- What about population? Biosphere may be able to look at what the sustainable human population would be in the Biosphere, but there are many complex issues to do with population.

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## **TAKING IT TO THE STREETS!**

Further to the 2009 AGM's request that the Committee consider ways of increasing membership, the Committee looked at numerous options and decided that a street stall would be a good way of taking our message to the public and possibly getting a few new members. Problems with public liability insurance were overcome when Cr Peter Paul was successful in getting Bass Coast Shire to cover us. Our stall was stocked with numerous environmental brochures from the Shire, Nature Park, Barb Martin Bush Bank, and our own brochure which will be available at the AGM. We also had 50 plants from the Bush Bank as give- aways to those interested. We were kept quite busy with enquiries from 10 a.m. til 1 p.m. on Saturday, 28th November, and gained a new member on the day - welcome to Dianne Grant! Many people took our brochure (illustrated with Terry Nott's drawings from our book), so we hope for some further new members. Our thanks go to Pauline Taylor, Penny Manning, Anne Davie, Margaret Hancock and Christine Grayden, who organised and staffed the stall. (Thanks also to CEO of PINP Mark Manteit who kindly delivered sustenance!) We plan to have another street stall on Thursday 14 Jan. Drop by and say Hello!

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## **RED ROCKS COAST ACTION REPORT FOR 2009**

- Email list of volunteers continues to grow.

- February extreme weather caused deaths of many of the seedlings that had established after planting near the western staircase the previous winter.
- This year's planting of 400 plants over a wide range of the Red Rocks coastal reserve has established well due to good Spring rains. We managed two planting days in July.
- Successful clean-up working bee was held in January and valuable control of woody weeds was achieved in October's working bee.
- Following attendance of the co-ordinator at a DSE workshop on Safety Leadership Training in June, new procedures for risk management have been implemented for working bees.
- In conjunction with the Shire's Environment Officer, the planting needs for 2010 have been assessed, and an order placed with the Barb Martin Bush Bank.

*John Eddy.*

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## **Minutes of General Meeting held January 10, 2009**

**1. Welcome.** The President, M. Hancock, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8.10 pm.

**2 & 3 . Attendance** As per attendance book. **Apologies.** G. Collins, P. Taylor, P. Manning.

**4. Minutes of the previous General Meeting.** 27 September 2008, as circulated in the Newsletter. Moved: S. Chadwick, seconded: P. Fensham, carried.

### **5. Business Arising.**

A successful **Bass Coast Shire Environment Groups Get-Together** was held Saturday 8th November in the Corinella Public Hall.

**6. Correspondence. In:** C. Grayden reported on the success of her \$2,400 grant application for a data projector.

**Out:** Tabled.

Moved: G. Cleeland, seconded: C. Grayden, carried.

**7. Treasurer's Report & 41st Annual Report** - presented. To be received at AGM.

**8. Proposed changes to the Constitution** - 35 proxy votes received in favour.

## **9. General Business.**

- 1. Summerland Road Closure** - The Phillip Island Nature Park proposes to close the South Coast Road to vehicular traffic. Members are requested to consider the matter and notify the Committee of their views.
- 2. Public Liability Insurance** - C. Grayden moved that she be delegated to clarify the issue, seconded, J. Eddy, carried.
- 3. A framed certificate of thanks** for 8 years work on PICS website was presented to Diane Baird in her absence.
- 4. A petition was suggested** banning all dogs from all beaches as is done on the Mornington Peninsula.

## **5. The importance of completing the Wildlife Health Survey**

, which will be available from December through to February 2009. The survey is about health and disease in free-ranging wildlife populations based in Victoria, Australia.

- 6. Concern was expressed regarding the PINP proposal for a 'Rope Adventure Course'** on land across the road from the Koala Conservation Centre.

**10. Next Working bee** Sunday January 11, 10.00 am, Red Rocks. **Friends of the Koalas AGM** Friday January 16, 8.00 pm, Heritage Centre Cowes. **Forum** with BCS councillors and officers Saturday January 24, 2.00 pm, Cowes Cultural Centre. **Malcolm Brodie's Performance Troupe** celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robbie Burns with a performance at the Parish Hall on Sunday January 25 at 2.00 pm. **Seasonal Walk** Saturday February 21, 2.00 pm., Ventnor Common. **General Meeting** Saturday April 18, 8.00 pm, Heritage Centre Cowes. **Working bee** Sunday April 19, 10-12 noon, Five Ways. Tidying up and rubbish collection.

**11. The meeting closed** at 9.40 pm.

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## **Minutes of General Meeting held October 3, 2009**

**1. Welcome.** The President, M. Hancock, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8.05 pm. Particularly welcomed was guest speaker Daniel Murphy, born and educated on Phillip Island and now Molecular Systemicist at the National Herbarium of Victoria

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/chah/resources/herbaria/mel.html> which is part of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria  
<http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/> Dan specialises in Acacias, commonly called wattles, of which there are about 1000 varieties native to Australia.

**2. Attendance** As per attendance book.

**3. Apologies** As per attendance book.

**4. Minutes of the previous General Meeting.** 4 July 2009, as circulated in the Newsletter.

Moved: O. Bolitho, seconded: A. Martin, carried.

**5. Business Arising.**

**Summerland Road Closure** - no further information.

**Car Ferry** - no further information.

**Bird brochure** - very good.

**6. Correspondence. In: Wallabies on Churchill Island -**

Responses received from the Minister and PINP CEO M. Manteit.

**Smith's Beach Association** - regarding Smith's Beach drainage reserve.

**Corinella Foreshore Reserve** - thanks for hosting the Environment Groups' Get-Together.

**Various periodicals.**

**Out: Keith Head** - Proposed Summerland exhibition in the Newhaven Hall in January 2010.

**BCSC** - South Coast walking track.

**PINP** - support for tourism award.

**PINP** - thanks for providing the venue for the recent Environment Groups' Get-Together.

**Various planning matters.**

All correspondence tabled.

Moved: J. Eddy, seconded: T. Nott, carried.

**7. Treasurer's Report** Tabled. Moved: J. Eddy, seconded: T. Nott, carried.

A change of signatory at the bank is required for PICS' operating account. It was moved, O. Bolitho, seconded, E. Shaw, "that M. Johnson be removed as a signatory and be replaced by Gaye Cleeland. The other two signatories are Margaret Hancock and Christine Grayden". carried.

**8. General Business.**

**1. C88, the Cowes, Silverleaves, Ventnor and Wimbledon**

**Heights Structure Plan** - update The Planning Panels

Victoria hearing will take place in Cowes from Tuesday 5th to Friday 9th October then in Melbourne from Monday 12th to Friday 16th October. The Minister has called in the 2 supermarket development proposals for which rezoning is required between Church Street and Settlement Road.

Environment Victoria <http://www.environmentvictoria.org.au/> is to advise the Minister. A decision is expected about the end of November.

**2. Hearing regarding the Shearwater Estate's vegetation removal** - deferred. **3. Newhaven Boys' Home development proposal** - suggest members peruse the plan currently on display in the Shire office. **4. PINP Board** - members, along with the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Gavin Jennings, will attend the official opening of the revamped

Visitor Centre at the Koala Conservation Centre on the 4th December.

**9. Vote of Thanks** to guest speaker Daniel Murphy was given by J. Eddy.

**10. Next Quarterly General Meeting and AGM** Saturday January 9, 8.00 pm, Heritage Centre Cowes

**11. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.**

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**Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 10th January 2009,  
following the General Meeting**

**1. The meeting opened at 9.40 pm.**

**2. Attendance and Apologies** as per the General Meeting.

**3. Minutes** of the AGM of the 12th January 2008.

**4. President's and Treasurer's Reports** received as presented. Moved, B. Dawe, that the reports be accepted and the accounts be approved for payment, seconded, P. Fenshaw, carried.

**5. R. Dyall took the chair and announced that nominations had been received prior and no election was necessary. T. Nott nominated from the floor, moved, J. Jansson, seconded, C. Grayden, carried.**

PRESIDENT: Margaret Hancock

VICE-PRESIDENT: Penny Manning

SECRETARY:

MINUTE SECRETARY: Gaye Cleeland

TREASURER: Christine Grayden

COMMITTEE: Gillian Collins, Anne Davie, John Jansson, Terry Nott, Pauline Taylor.

Changes to the Constitution were ratified by 35 proxy votes received in favour.

It was moved, P. Fensham, seconded, C. Grayden , that PICS incoming committee's priority should be an increase in membership with a report at the next AGM, carried. The junior membership category with various Friends of Zoos was mentioned. It was suggested that the target audience should be those aged 40+ whose families have grown and who have time, energy and finance to commit.

It was moved, J. Eddy, and carried by acclamation, that

Malcolm Brodie be thanked for his contribution to PICS.

J. Eddy reported that he had attended an interesting presentation on the 19th December regarding the Aquanator.

**6. Next AGM** 9th January 2010.

**7. The meeting closed** at 10.01 pm.

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## MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC FUND FORMS

Download the [\*\*Membership Renewal Form\*\*](#) and send it in today if you have not renewed your subscription, or if you want to become a new member.

The [\*\*Public Fund\*\*](#) donation form can be downloaded for your contribution to this fund. Feel free to share these with a friend or neighbour.

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## PICS CONTACTS

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