

December 2016

Dates for Your Diary 2017

Saturday 7 January 2017: Animals of Oz: 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. Heritage Centre meeting room, 89 Thompson Ave Cowes (in the library/museum building). An educational presentation by a zoologist of a number of Australian animals and birds. The presentations suit children of all ages (and adults!). An adult is to stay with their child. The sessions are free and funded by Bass Coast Shire Council and PICS. All welcome.

Saturday 7 January 2017, 10 a.m. – 12 noon: PICS Street Stall. Located outside the Heritage Centre at 89 Thompson Ave Cowes (the library/museum building). Lots of information on many environmental topics, and I Love Phillip Island stickers for sale. Drop by and say “Hello” to our stall volunteers.

Saturday 7th January 2017 Annual General Meeting, St Philip’s Parish Hall, cnr Thompson Ave and Church St Cowes. Bring and share meal 6.30 p.m. Meeting 7.30 p.m. Annual reports; election of office bearers. (No speaker)

Enquiries: Christine Grayden, ph 5956 8501 m 0400 900 612 e: cgrayden@waterfront.net.au

Sub-committees of PICS:

Red Rocks Coastcare/Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve: Co-ordinator is John Eddy, ph 5956 8501 e:

cgrayden@waterfront.net.au

Saltwater Creek Coastcare: Co-ordinator is Kevin Harris kevin@grating.com.au

Other groups:

Preserve Western Port Action Group (against the Port of Hastings): preservewesternport@gmail.com Official phone number is: 0456 612 852 Facebook: Preserve Western Port Action Group. Media contact: Jeff Nottle nottle@bigpond.net.au Secretary: Kate 0409 692 425.

Barb Martin Bush Bank: Sales and volunteers – every Wednesday + 1st Saturday of each month 10 – 1. Phone Anne Davie ph 5956 8216

Friends of Koalas (FOK) Habitat Days: First Sat of every month at 10 a.m. **Koala Count** at the Koala Conservation Centre, second Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. Contact Patsy Hunt ph 5952 2407

Friends of Churchill Island (FOCIS): email: secretary@focis.org.au

Groundswell Bass Coast Climate Change action group: <http://groundswellbasscoast.com> Contact Ray Astbury: rugged@people.net.au phone 5952 1991.

Bird Life Bass Coast: Penny Manning, convener, penny@waterfront.net.au

PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 7th January, 2017,

6.30 p.m. bring and share meal

7.30 p.m. AGM – annual reports, general business, committee elections

St Philip’s Parish Hall, cnr Thompson Ave and Church St Cowes

All welcome

Enqs: Christine 5956 8501 cgrayden@waterfront.net.au

PICS COMMITTEE 2016

President: Anne Davie (media contact 5956 8216) e: bimbadeen@nex.net.au

Vice President: Pauline Taylor ph 5952 5485

Secretary: Christine Grayden, ph 5956 8501 e: cgrayden@waterfront.net.au

Minutes Secretary: Gillian Collins

Treasurer: **VACANT**

Committee: Steven Angel (webmaster), Margaret Hancock (planning), Penny Manning (Chair of c/ee and sub c/ee meetings) Terry Nott, Jeff Nottle, Lisa Schonberg. **ONE POSITION VACANT**

C/ee meets at 9.30 a.m. mostly on 4th Sat of each month at Community Emmaus Room, Parish Hall Cowes.

President's Letter to Members

The three new Wards of the Bass Coast Shire have seen the election in October of 8 out of 9 new Councillors and a Phillip Island Mayor, Pam Rothfield. PICS has congratulated the Councillors on their success and informed them of the Society's long history of supporting decisions that protect and enhance the Island's precious natural environment.

The Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 Vision is that Phillip Island [including San Remo] is recognised nationally and globally as a world leading sustainable tourism destination, where tourism is embraced by the community.

The mild, damp Spring weather has seen the Island farms with good paddocks of grass that have resulted in a bumper season. The conditions have been excellent for all the plantings that have taken place across the Island in 2016. It is good to see that the Candowie Reservoir is at a very satisfactory level, as we go into summer.

As mentioned a while ago, the Conservation Society wants to produce a book titled "Women in Conservation on Phillip Island" for the 150th Celebration of Closer Settlement on the Island in 2018, the same year the Conservation Society will be celebrating 50 years since it began! It is proposed that the book be launched at the International Women's Day event on the Island in 2018. Margaret Hancock, Christine Grayden and myself have met recently, to get started on this project.

The AGM of the Society will be held on Saturday, January 7th in St Philips Church Hall in Thompson Avenue at 7.30pm. Please come along at 6.30 [bring some food to share], to catch up with friends and have a chat. Everyone is welcome.

Hoping that you have a happy, peaceful festive season and a healthy new year to follow. *Anne Davie.*



Treasurer Needed! *A special request to members: If you know of someone who would be willing to offer their services as the PICS Treasurer, the committee would be very appreciative. The system used is a simple book-based one (not computer) and the books are up to date. The job involves: banking cheques, paying accounts, keeping membership forms, keeping our record book up to date, doing a simple BAS quarterly, actioning Public Fund donation receipts and keeping the committee informed through monthly reports – usually about 2-3 hours a week, but more in January/February when the subscriptions come in. Committee member Steve Angel forwards any online subs or donations notifications to the treasurer. We use Bendigo Bank. Our secretary Christine Grayden is currently doing the treasurer's job as well. Please contact her if you are able to take on the treasurer's position: cgrayden@waterfront.net.au*

Membership renewals

In the next few weeks members will receive a membership renewal notice in the mail. Please note that the PICS subscription year starts at the 1st of January. We would greatly appreciate your paying your membership promptly. The form also includes a Public Fund donation form if you would like to make a tax deductible donation to PICS to help us further our environmental and educational work. You can pay either your subscription or donate by cheque or postal order to PO BOX 548 COWES 3922, or online at <http://picsvictoria.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member/> We look forward to your continued membership and support! For enquiries regarding membership or donations please contact Christine Grayden 5956 8501 or email: cgrayden@waterfront.net.au

Preserve Western Port Action Group Report

PWP is most pleased that all Council candidates at the last election were all anti- port. Councillors including Clare Le Serve, Michael Whelan and Geoff Ellis are the leading outspoken Councillors who are against the Port. We take this situation as a key success in our campaign in educating our community to the extent that all Councillors are against the Port.

PWP is pleased that comments provided during development of the PI & San Remo Visitor Strategy about the threat that a container port would have on the economy have been included in the documentation. However, whilst the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis including the threats were outlined in the Draft Strategy paper the SWOT was excluded from the final document. This was probably an attempt by the authors and reviewer's to remove any "inconvenient truths" from the spin in the final document. The SWOT analysis including the port threat are now on P78 of the Appendix document.

PWP representatives attended an Infrastructure Victoria (IV) community consultation on the location of another container port held at Hastings on 23/11. PWP was able to provide IV representatives with key documentation relating to the port proposal including Professor Kennedy comments, Coastal erosion reports etc. IV came to the consultation believing that Hastings was a natural deep water port and the only impact would be on Hastings. We made our points on the impact on other communities economies and environment including Phillip Island. We believe a shift occurred in the IV thinking about Hastings and the wider impact following the workshop.

PWP is preparing a submission to be lodged with IV around the end of this year. Given we have provided a lot of information to IV the submission will be reduced in complexity.

Sarah from the PI & SR Advertiser has interviewed myself in preparation for a feature article they intend to run in early December. Others including PWP committee members will also be interviewed.

Jeff Nottle is chairman of the [Preserve Western Port Action Group](#).

Email: preservewesternport@gmail.com

Web: www.preservewesternport.org.au *Preserve Western Port is auspiced by PICS.*



PICS the winner from Work Experience Offer

By John Eddy

It is not every day that a dedicated young person offers to spend a week of their time helping with conservation work. So when that offer came from Deakin University Environmental Science student, Jye Anderson, we jumped at it. Jye, who grew up on Phillip Island, was required by his university course to do 80 hours work experience, and he chose to do 40 hours with PICS and 40 hours with Bass Coast Landcare Network. Being familiar with Jye's approach to field work after meeting him at several working bees earlier in the year, I knew that as his PICS supervisor, I would not be disappointed, and that, together, we could achieve a lot.

Now that the work experience period has finished, Jye and I look back on an enjoyable and productive time working mostly at Scenic Estate Reserve, but also Red Rocks and on mangrove planting at Grantville. We have collected and tentatively identified up to 15 moss and liverwort species from SER, and started a photo gallery of flowering plants. We have continued the monitoring program of sea spurge germination near Justice Rd, and participated in a successful "Spurgebusters" morning, clearing out sea spurge from Justice Rd to Red Rocks and removing Boneseed. Blue Periwinkle has been hunted out and removed from previously infested areas at Red Rocks.

Jye has helped me continue the salinity monitoring project at SER, and helped set up the monitoring of cliff erosion on the coast there. Site maintenance has included removal of disintegrating guards, and control of thistles and Stinkwort. We have also measured the impact of herbicide on Swamp Paperbark encroaching on nature grassland.

Mangrove seed has been collected at different places along the coast, and secured to bamboo stakes in a new, direct-seeding method being trialled to establish mangroves on eroding shorelines. 100 were recently planted in this way at SER and nearly 300 at Grantville.

In addition, Jye has taken part in surveys to establish our order of plants for 2017 with the Barb Martin Bush Bank, contributed to discussion of Stage 2 planning at SER, been an observer at a recent PICS committee meeting and helped plan our 11th Dec working bee, where he demonstrated mangrove planting.

Our sincere thanks to Jye for his invaluable assistance with all of these projects. After Christmas he heads off to Costa Rica for several months to help with preservation of sea turtles. We will be looking forward to Jye being our guest speaker at our April 2017 PICS General Meeting, when he will present a summary of his work experience with PICS and BCLN and his exciting Costa Rican experience. Bon voyage, Jye!



Jye and John securing mangrove seeds onto stakes.

Planning Matters

Margaret Hancock

Over the holiday period, please watch out for pink notices on fences. These will be planning permit applications.

1. The proposal for a caravan park at Forrest Caves has re-emerged.
2. Two adjacent one acre lots in Red Rocks Road (backing onto Toscana Rise) are mooted to be the site of townhouse developments.
3. The Isle of Wight site has been sold.
4. There is no reliable news about the future of the airfield.
5. Some ratepayers are clamouring for a bigger transfer station on Phillip Island – but no potential site has been identified.
6. The car ferry proposal continues to ‘bubble along’.

We can expect movement in all these areas during the holiday period – so watch out!!

A crafty solution to plastic pollution – by Lauren Jones

We all know plastic is bad for our environment, from its production through to disposal. Worldwide an estimated 8.4 million tonnes of plastic enter our marine environment from land-based sources each year. It is estimated our oceans now contain more than five trillion microplastic particles. This plastic is impacting over 800 marine species, including over half of all seabirds, mammals and 85% of sea turtles. Let's do something fun, sustainable and inclusive on a local level that solves part of this global plastic problem.

Who has a cupboard, drawer or car boot full of reusable supermarket shopping bags? Me. Who has forgotten to bring this collection with them to the shops? Me. Who has done a Plastic Bag Walk of Shame from the checkout to the car? Me. Australians use about **four billion single or limited use plastic supermarket bags annually** – that's 170 bags for every man, woman and child in the country.

Enter Boomerang Bags.

Boomerang Bags is a not-for-profit community-driven initiative tackling plastic bag pollution at the grassroots level by sewing sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic bags.

Each Boomerang Bag is hand-made by local community members using donated, second-hand materials, keeping the initiative local and sustainable. Boomerang Bags are then placed in bag-share boxes in central shopping precincts, such as Cowes, where shoppers can borrow and bring back a bag if they forget to bring their own reusable bag, or the bags can be ‘boomerang'd’ to friends, family, colleagues or to the bag-less stranger in front of you at the checkout.



This simple model has worked a treat in over 52 communities around Australia, after kicking off on the Gold Coast in 2014, as it provides both environmental and community benefits. It's seen an estimated 25 million plastic bags replaced so far and is a fantastic way to engage and connect community members from all backgrounds and all ages. You don't

need to know how to sew, you can donate material, provide a venue for sewing bees, deliver the bags to local shops, help with promotions and events, there's really something for everyone.

I'm currently working to build a Boomerang Bags community on Phillip Island. **A Community Info Session will be held in the new year at the Cowes Cultural Centre. If you would like to be involved or for the latest info on Boomerang Bags Phillip Island please join our Facebook Group 'Boomerang Bags Phillip Island', email boomerangbagspi@gmail.com or visit boomerangbags.org.**

Plastic Bag Free Phillip Island

Boomerang Bags forms part of Plastic Bag Free Phillip Island, a campaign driven by dedicated locals to educate and raise awareness about the problems with single use plastic bags. The aim is to activate the wider community to transition away from using them through school and community talks, beach clean ups and trivia nights. Aligned with BCSC's key environmental objectives and supported by Anthony Hill from Plastic Pollution Solutions, the campaign is currently in its formative stages with the aim to launch mid-2017.

If you would like to be involved or for the latest info join Plastic Bag Free Phillip Island on Facebook >facebook.com/PBFPI.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 24.9.2016

Present: As per attendance book

Apologies: As per attendance book

Suspension of standing orders to allow for our speaker. Pauline Taylor/Margaret Hancock *Carried*

Jane Toner gave a Power Point talk on "Biomimicry", a form of architecture and design which takes examples from nature as its inspiration.

Vote of thanks: Anne Davie thanked Jane for her fascinating and most enlightening talk. Carried with acclamation.

Minutes of Previous Meeting 9.7.2016 Penny Manning/Margaret Hancock *Carried.*

Matters arising:

1. Initial plan for subdivision on ex-Hayes property has been sent back to submitter
2. Blue Gum Alley – when Anne, Margaret and Penny met with planner, they brought up the issue of increased use of BGA by private vehicles and creation of two driveways onto the alley. Need to find out what was allowable re access for private property to BGA.
3. Containers on south coast: shire has issued an order that the containers are to be removed.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

Jocelyn Bradley – thanks for sympathy card

Bendigo Bank – term deposit update

Smiths Beachcomber Spring newsletter

Cape Woolamai Coastal Reserves Master Plan released

BCS Environment Groups get together flyer from SGCS. Sat Oct 8 Bunurong Env't Centre, 1.30 p.m.

Vicflora – guide to the wild plants of Victoria website information

Marine and Coastal Act consultation paper open for comment.

Dave Martin re his co-ordinating all hooded plover nesting sites on BCSC beaches this summer instead of Jon Fallaw, PINP

Derek Hibbert re Red Rocks Hooded plover nesting site.

Sally O'Neill, para to be used in PINP celebration publicity

Patrick Touhey et al, statement of grounds re 36-46 Honeysuckle Grove Silverleaves VCAT hearing
FOSER newsletter August 2016 "Bumper Birthday Edition"

Outwards:

Email to all BCSC candidates Phillip Island & Westernport wards re Meet the Candidates, Friday 7.10.16, Parish Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Email to Cr Phil Wright re our lack of resources to co-ordinate friends groups for all small reserves on Phillip Island.

Email with flyer attachment to BCS environment group re get together.

Email sent to members: Vicflora – guide to the wild plants of Victoria website information

Treasurers Report:

The report for June-August was presented. Christine Grayden/John Eddy *Carried*.

Other reports - John Eddy reported on three PICS sub-committees: Red Rocks Coastcare; Saltwater Creek Coastcare; Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve.

General Business:

1. Anne reported that she had recently attended the Rural Women's Network for a two-day workshop, which made her very positive about the future of agriculture.

2. Anne also reported on the Gippsland Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan information session she attended, where they were told that Bass Coast Shire Council has set the bar very high for standards and are leading the way with the three bin system, including food scraps which will reduce the amount of methane coming off landfill site. GRWRR says there will be no need for a landfill on Phillip Island for at least 10 years, if at all. Trevor Ryan who runs the Grantville landfill site is very knowledgeable and is happy to give us a tour any time.

3. Margaret Hancock reported that some of the trees planted in Blue Gum Reserve last year have failed due to the weather, but more will be planted by the shire soon.

4. Anne reported that she, Margaret and Penny Manning had met with 2 BCSC planners recently. There is no movement on the Isle of Wight or Continental sites and no new subdivisions.

5. Margaret reported that Toscana Rise has been a big success and the valley is now well vegetated.

6. John Eddy reported that he had recently had word of some Banksias having been removed at Toscana Rise. To be investigated.

7. Terry Nott asked if there had been any application for the Cape Woolamai airfield. A: Not that we have heard.

Meeting closed 9.30 p.m.

Newhaven Airfield Site: Bass Coast Shire



Phillip Island Conservation Society, Inc.

The Penguin Newsletter

December 2016

If undeliverable, return to:

PICS Inc.

PO Box 548

COWES, 3922

Our Public Fund: In 2016 we have given \$500 to Bayview Park for revegetation, \$100 to the Phillip Island Wildlife Carers and \$2500 towards a vegetation management plan for Scenic Estate Reserve. This is your public fund at work. If you would like to donate towards other similar worthwhile projects, please donate using the form below or go to our website: <http://picsvictoria.org.au/donate/>

PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC PUBLIC FUND

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Post code: _____

YES! I want to support the PICS Public Fund with a tax deductible donation

\$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 My Choice \$ _____

Please make cheque/money order payable to *Phillip Island Conservation Society Public Fund* and mail to: The Treasurer, PO Box 548, COWES, Vic. 3922.

Or to pay online, go to: <http://picsvictoria.org.au/donate/>

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

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