



“The Penguin” Newsletter

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Website: www.picsvictoria.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/picsvictoria

Newsletter: March 2018

Dates for Your Diary 2018

To be advised for Coastcare groups

General Meeting Dates. Heritage Centre Meeting room, 89 Thompson Ave Cowes:

Sunday 8 April, 2 p.m.

Sunday 8 July, 2 p.m.

Sunday 30 Sep, 2 p.m.

AGM: Sat 6 Jan 2019, Cultural Centre Cowes

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve:

All scheduled working bees to be on Sundays , 10am to 12noon, starting at the car park.

21st Jan Stinkwort and thistle control

11th Mar Our Clean Up Australia Activity at Reserve (replacing Clean Up Aust Day, 4th Mar)

3rd Jun Planting Day 1 - entrance + ” Stinkwort Flats”

8th July Planting Day 2 - Moonah woodland extension

2nd Sep Gorse control

11th Nov Site Maintenance

Enquiries: Christine Grayden, ph 5956 8501 m 0400 900 612 e: cdgrayden@gmail.com (note change of email address)

Sub-committees of PICS:

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

e: johneddy1946@gmail.com (note change of email address)

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

Other groups:

Barb Martin Bush Bank: Is currently closed while revamping is undertaken by new managers Phillip Island Nature Parks. 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 Pauline Taylor: gpctaylor@gmail.com

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

PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 8th April 2018, 2 p.m., Heritage Centre, 89 Thompson Ave Cowes.

Speaker: Dave Sutton, South Gippsland Conservation Society

“Blue Carbon 101”

A presentation from Deakin University

Enqs: Christine 5956 8501 cdgrayden@gmail.com

PICS COMMITTEE 2018

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

Vice President: Jeff Nottle

Secretary: Christine Grayden, ph 5956 8501 e: cdgrayden@gmail.com (note change of email address)

Minutes Secretary: Phil Wright

Treasurer: **VACANT** Acting Treasurer: Christine Grayden

Committee: Margaret Hancock (planning), Penny Manning (Chair of c/ee and sub c/ee meetings) Terry Nott, Jeff Nottle, Lisa Schonberg, Phil Wright

C/ee meets at 9.30 a.m. mostly on 1st Sat of each month at Community Emmaus Room, Parish Hall Cowes.

Letter from the President

Anne Davie

As it was such a hot day on Saturday, January 6th for the PICS AGM, the committee wisely decided to change the venue from the Parish Hall to the Cultural Centre with its air-conditioning.

It is 50 years in August since the Conservation was formed and a celebration of that significant event will be announced soon. It really is something to celebrate.

St Philip's Parish Hall was overflowing on Saturday March 10th for the PICS convened meeting about the Business Case for the proposed Car Ferry Terminal on the Cowes front beach. The title of the meeting was "Ferry Facts and Fantasies". Guest speakers were Kate McKenzie from Save Our Beach [SOB], Cr Michael Whelan and John Pandazopolous, Chair of Destination Phillip Island. Question time followed.

The Meeting was chaired by Jeff Nottle, PICS vice-president who put the PICS position on the Ferry Terminal Business Case. PICS believe the Case is flawed. It believes there should be no Car Ferry Terminal on the precious north-facing beach in Cowes.

Two Motions were passed at the Meeting.

Motion 1: That the Meeting believes the Cowes Stony Point Car Ferry Business Case is flawed socially, economically and environmentally. Council and key stakeholders be informed of this position

Motion 2: A Working Group be formed from this meeting. The Working Group will prepare the response to the Business Case and any other Reports.

The Motions were carried overwhelmingly.



Members are encouraged to send a Submission with regard to the Business Case by **April 6th**. Online go to: http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/Business/Cowes_to_Stony_Point_Car_Ferry Or fill in the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZGJX768 or by phoning EarthCheck on (07) 3238 1901 or emailing consulting@earthcheck.org Or you can post your thoughts to Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118 WONTHAGGI, 3995.

Annual Reports for 2017

The annual reports from the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6th January 2018 will soon appear on the PICS website under About. Go to www.picsvictoria.org.au If you are unable to access the internet and would like a copy of the reports, please contact the secretary Christine Grayden on 5956 8501 and she can mail you a hard copy.

Planning Report

The new year has begun with much VCAT activity! On January 22 there was a hearing about the proposed subdivision of 20-30 Red Rocks Rd Cowes. The hearing was chaired by member Cimino, and attended by the proponent, the Shire, the CFA, PICS, FOK and nine individual respondents. During the hearing it became apparent that there was a possibility of sufficient agreement being reached and for the hearing listed for two days in April to be cancelled. So, on February 19 it was an early start to be at the 'compulsory conference' which began at 8.45 a.m. Despite all the traffic on the so-called 'freeway' the bus made good time and I was at the conference table by 9.10 a.m. Well, we conferred and conferred and by 2.30 p.m. we were out of VCAT, and by 2.50 the bus was leaving Southern Cross! Yes, it was a long day – BUT the two day hearing set for April 23 & 24 has been cancelled and in VCAT parlance has been 'vacated'.

What impressed me most at the hearing in January was the great influence of the CFA over vegetation controls and consequent land use decisions. This influence also has been apparent in recent "Woolamai House" and "Toscana Rise" decisions. The initial proposal for the two acre Red Rocks Rd site was for a 12 lot subdivision with a proposed central road for vehicular entry, and a crossover for the lots at either end of the frontage.

The agreed proposal is for a five lot subdivision, each with a crossover. The agreement has been signed off by the Applicant's legal representative, the Shire's legal representative, three of the neighbours, by Ross Lloyd, and by me on behalf of PICS, and, most importantly, by Member Cimino on behalf of VCAT.

The next step for PICS is to ensure that suitable street tree planting is carried out on the totally denuded streetscape – which looks as though it has been mown regularly for years and years and years!

P.S. Point to Ponder on the Car Ferry Business case: How much faith should be put in business cases? Do you remember the "Seal Rocks" fiasco? *Margaret Hancock*

WOMEN IN CONSERVATION ON PHILLIP ISLAND

The Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council, Pamela Rothfield, will soon launch our new book: "Women in Conservation on Phillip Island". This book has been partly funded by a Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grant, and is PICS's contribution to the 150th celebrations since closer settlement on Phillip Island brought many settlers in 1868. It is also part of PICS's 50th anniversary celebrations. A total of 23 women who have been significant contributors to conservation on Phillip Island, or their families, were given six guiding questions and asked to write their own chapters. Our secretary Christine Grayden was the editor, and the subcommittee for this project consisted of Christine, Anne Davie (whose idea it was originally) and Margaret Hancock. The women, or their families, provided us with (mostly colour) photos, which Christine inserted into the individual chapters. Our printer, Mark Collier at NewArtworx in Dandenong North, did an excellent job of the printing and binding. The resulting book is most attractive production which respectfully commemorates these women dating from the 1930s to the present.



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The book will be for sale after Tuesday March 27 for \$20 per copy + \$5 postage. Contact the secretary, Christine Grayden on cdgrayden@gmail.com or phone 5956 8501.

“POLITICS, PLANNING, PASSION and PERSEVERANCE A History of the Preserve Western Port Action Group Campaign” By Phyllis Papps

In Jeff Nottle’s introduction to this recently produced book, in his capacity as Chairman of Preserve Western Port Action Group, Jeff tells us that the book “is an essential read for people considering commencing or expanding a peaceful, direct action community campaign. This is a story of how a group of dedicated community members found themselves brought together with a common passion of protecting the region’s economy and environment. With \$30 raised from the first Phillip Island Conservation Society public meeting a newly formed sub-committee was formed, the Preserve Western Port Action Group, who found themselves facing a determined State LNP Government and Port Authority flushed with millions of dollars to prosecute the case for industrialising Western Port with a container port.

“Phyllis Papps, well known Phillip Island writer, has compiled a comprehensive history of the campaign journey that thrust this unknown group on the local, State and international stage....I encourage you to read this history of what can be achieved against considerable and well financed proponents seeking to promote a proposal built on slogans and, as evidence by the recommendations of Infrastructure Victoria, ultimately bereft of sound economic, social and environmental outcomes.” (p.4)

The book will be available shortly through the library service, or contact the secretary of PICS, Christine Grayden on cdgrayden@gmail.com or phone 5956 8501 for more information.



PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SAT 6 JANUARY 2018, 7.30 p.m., CULTURAL CENTRE COWES.

ANNUAL REPORTS AS PER WEBSITE: picsvictoria.org.au under About – Annual Reports

TREASURER’S REPORT – Christine Grayden

Acting Treasurer Christine Grayden presented the annual statement including assets and liabilities with copies for members to inspect. She pointed out that although our total assets are healthy, much of the money is in the Public Fund and not available for everyday expenses.

“That the annual statement for the calendar year 2017 be accepted”. Christine Grayden/Phil Wright
Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The following were elected unopposed:

President - Anne Davie, who said that 2018 would be her last year as PICS president.

Vice-President – Jeff Nottle

Secretary – Christine Grayden

Minute Secretary - vacant

Treasurer - vacant. Acting Treasurer: Christine Grayden

“That the number of ordinary committee members will be 6” Pauline Taylor/Penny Manning *Carried.*

The following ordinary Committee members were elected unopposed:

Pauline Taylor, Phil Wright, Lisa Schonberg, Penny Manning, Margaret Hancock, Terry Nott.

Red Rocks Coastcare Co-ordinator appointed – John Eddy

Saltwater Creek Coastcare Co-ordinator appointed – Kevin Harris

FOSER co-ordinator appointed – John Eddy

MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2019

“That membership fees remain the same as present for the 2019 year” Jeff Nottle/Margaret Hancock.

CLOSE OF MEETING 9.35 p.m.

PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1.1.2017-31.12.2017
SUBJECT TO AUDIT

A/c: Phillip Island Conservation Society Incorporated # 154278584 OPERATING ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 1.1.2017 4,415.97

INCOME:

Membership subscriptions	1548.98
Donations to this a/c	387.70
Donations to Public Fund (transferred to PF a/c)	362.16
Grant – Women in Conservation	
Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC)	1205.00
Animals of Oz BCSC 2017	400.00
Animals of Oz BCSC 2018	400.00
Envt grps get together BCSC	400.00
ATO GST	327.00
Donations/sales PWP	186.00

Books/stickers – PICS	81.98
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>5298.82</u>

EXPENSES:

Printing	208.20
Postage	534.40
Room & hall hire	688.30
Advertising	243.12
PWP – celebration food/drink	143.84
Coastcare	87.12
ATO GST	36.00
Subscriptions	125.00
Animals of Oz (BCSC)	400.00
Consumer Affairs Vic annual statement	55.80
Public liability insurance	1031.49
Public Fund transfers	340.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>3893.27</u>

Closing balance 31.12.2017	<u>5821.52</u>
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Less encumbered funds:

Women in Conservation grant	1205.00
PWP	260.94
Linfox	307.90
Vehicular ferry	140.65
<u>Total encumbered funds (1)</u>	<u>1914.49</u>

Note (1): Since Red Rocks Coastcare does not require funding at this point, their previous encumbered funds have been returned to general funds.

Less Unpresented cheques:

Delaware North – catering for envt grps get together (BCSC funded)	286.00
Animals of Oz 2018 (BCSC funded \$400)	420.00
Parish of Bass Phillip Island room hire	170.00
<u>Total unpresented cheques:</u>	<u>876.00</u>

1. Total available operating funds after encumbered funds and unpresented cheques were subtracted as at 31.12.2017	<u>3031.03</u>
2. Total available operating funds (as for 1.) 1.1.2017	<u>2549.81</u>
<u>Final Adjusted Surplus</u> # 154278584	<u>+481.22</u>

A/c Phillip Island Conservation Society Public Fund # 156185944 TAX DEDUCTIBLE ACCOUNT
 Opening balance 1.1.2017 4832.61
INCOME:

Donations – 15 donors 1060

EXPENSES:

Kate Bennetts SER veg mngt plan	2500.00
Holroyd subscription transfer to general a/c	30.00
BMBB Bayview Park plants	156.00
Total Expenses	<u>2686.00</u>

Closing balance as at 31.12.2017 3206.61

Term Deposit Phillip Island Conservation Society Incorporated # 155771645

TAX DEDUCTIBLE FUNDS

Opening balance 1.1.2017	12,349.91
Interest for 2017 259.01	
Closing balance 28.11.2017 (due 28.2.2018)	<u>12,608.92</u>
<u>TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS:</u>	<u>15,815.53</u>

ASSETS & LIABILITIES 2017:

Assets:

Cash at bank: (Public Fund \$3206.61)	9028.13
Investment – term deposit (Public Fund)	12,608.92
Books: An Island Worth Conserving 30 copies @ \$15	450.00
Data Projector, laptop and tools	200.00
<u>Total Assets:</u>	<u>22,287.05</u>

Liabilities:

Encumbered funds:	1914.49
Unpresented cheques	856.00
<u>Total liabilities:</u>	<u>2770.49</u>

Nett Assets: 19,516.56

PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 6.1.2018

Welcome and acknowledgement of indigenous peoples.

PRESENT: As per attendance book

APOLOGIES: As per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday 1.10.2017 (as distributed in Dec newsletter). Phil Wright/Jeff Nottle. *Carried.*

Matters arising: Nil.

Correspondence

Inwards:

BCSC confirmation of use of Town Square for stall

Carmen Bush, Rhyll Community Association re subdivision of large residential block Rhyll

Marine & Coastal Act project team – link to copy of new bill

Phillip Island Conservation Society, Inc.

The Penguin Newsletter

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If undeliverable, return to:

PICS Inc.

PO Box 548

COWES, 3922

PICS General Minutes, continued:

Veronica Dowman, Small Coastal Townships Alliance, update on work with council and meeting with Minister Wynn

BCSC notice of refusal to grant a permit for storage facility in a farming zone, 35 Coghlan Rd Cowes

BCSC Deirdre Griepsma via Phil Wright re Biodiversity Biolinks Plan

Jon Fallaw, PINP, update on Hooded Plover nesting season

Outwards:

PINP comments on Strategic Plan draft 2018-23.

General Business

John Eddy reported on a project for 2018 for which he is developing a grant application to revegetate the foreshore at Pleasant Point using indigenous seed from the area where possible. This project will be done in conjunction with Rhyll Coast Action and the Phillip Island Nature Parks.

The next general meeting will be on Sunday 8 April, 2 p.m. in the Heritage Centre meeting room.