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## Events

### GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 11 April 2021 at 2.00 pm  
St Philips Anglican Church Hall  
102 Thompson Ave, Cowes  
Speaker: Dr Peter Dann PhD Melb  
Research Director, Phillip Island Nature Parks  
Subject "Ten remarkable things about the natural history  
of Phillip Island: A personal list" (See page 2).

Followed by General Meeting - all welcome.  
Please RSVP to Secretary, Josephine Kent

### PLANT STALL 2021

#### Silverleaves Conservation Association

Sunday 6 June 2021  
10.00am – 2.00pm  
*SILVERLEAVES STORE*



### March 2021

#### Contact us:

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# President's Report

*“We encourage our members to connect with our Committee ...”*

## JEFF NOTTLE



PICS have started the New Year with a number of key projects and proposed further reach of our engagement with our community. 2020 was a year that many people focussed on the pleasures of the natural world and a deeper understanding of the need for conservation for future generations. We intend to build on our relationships and our first Committee meeting we hosted Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Ali Wastie and Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Whelan. We discussed PICS strategic involvement in Council initiatives and Council were most interested in our views.

PICS is pleased to welcome our new committee members and the further opportunities we have to build on key conservation objectives including education and on the ground works. We encourage our members to connect with our Committee and see how you can be part of this journey

## PICS HAS TRANSPORT SUCCESS

Apparently the road engineers at Regional Roads Victoria have been dreaming of a bitumen led recovery for the Island. Whilst we recognise the benefits of the Cape Woolamai and Back Beach Road roundabouts for commuter safety more vast roundabouts at Newhaven and more wide road widening across the Island will not alone address our transport challenges. PICS formally raised concerns with Government Ministers about the lack of transparent holistic transport planning, delays in the long promised speed limits review, lack of demand management strategies, impacts on our environment, exclusion of public transport improvements, pathways and transport options and connections from the RRV road widening agenda.

Following our Government approaches and subsequent meetings it appears that integrated transport planning with community engagement for the Island is now to be a key part of future transport planning for the Island. Councillor David Rooks is currently negotiating with RRV and Council staff on refocusing the transport planning for the Island. This is excellent news and PICS will be involved in the new transport planning forums currently being developed. We believe Council have a once in a generation opportunity to shape the future look and feel of the Island by getting the right balance for the integrated transport needs of the Island.

Dr. Peter Dann has worked on penguins, particularly, and other Phillip Island wildlife, for over 40 years and is currently the Research Director at Phillip Island Nature Parks. He has published over 200 papers and book chapters and edited a book on penguin ecology and management. His main research interests are the mitigation of anthropogenic threats to seabirds and shorebirds, ecology of islands and the conservation of threatened species. He has a life-long commitment to science-based wildlife management and threatened species conservation and is an honorary fellow of Birdlife Australia and the University of Melbourne and a Board member of the World Seabird Union and the Penguin Foundation. His work in wildlife conservation has been enhanced by the privilege to co-supervise 40 honours and post-graduate students at a variety of tertiary institutions in Australia and overseas.



## Reports

### TOTALLY RENEWAL PHILLIP ISLAND (TRPI)

Currently TRPI is active in 5 areas.

The Carbon Farming group is one year into a two-year project of recording soil carbon levels on farms across the island. We wish to expand this trial and seek another 3-5 land holders, ideally of 10 acres or more. The first soil measurement and the second, two years later are paid for by TRPI through the money raised from our carbon auction in 2019. We then work together to look at regenerative methods that may help to increase soil carbon. We are working together on this project with PILG and BCLN.

The Energy group are about to implement recommendations that came out of our Pre-feasibility study commissioned in 2019/20. TRPI are putting together some energy literacy guides. Also guides to reduce energy use by changing behaviours regarding energy consumption. Mondo is looking to partner with TRPI to instal batteries on PI and they are wanting to work with us and community to find the best fit, with the opportunity for community investment.

The food and Waste group have recently been successful with a grant from the BCSC. TRPI has partnered with BBLN and a few individuals we established Bass Coast Food Collective. There was a realisation that this area needed to grow bigger than just PI. It will be auspice by BCLN and our first meeting is on 18th Feb 2021.

The transport group has been working on the active transport plan with council and have 2 local councillors eagerly behind this project. The goal is to create safer roads for cycling and with a longer-term plan of more bike paths. TRPI also has a representative on a government group looking at ways to support and encourage the uptake of electric vehicles.

If you are interested in any of these projects please visit our web page or FB or email Bhavani at

[bhavanirooks@outlook.com](mailto:bhavanirooks@outlook.com)

### RED ROCKS / SALTWATER CREEK COASTCARE (RRSWCC) REPORT

Planning is in progress for the Landcare Planting Blitz in July this year. We had hoped to put in 500 plants at Saltwater Creek Reserve as part of that project, but Landcare is keen to increase that number.

I am meeting with Landcare people to discuss the plans, and the details of implementing them.

On 6th March volunteers helped at the Saltwater Creek 2016 Revegetation project site to remove tall netting guards from trees (Bursaria and Banksia). These guards will be redeployed at our July Landcare plantings along the Creek Reserve.

Anyone wishing to be involved please contact Coastcare Coordinator.

*John Eddy,  
Coastcare Coordinator*





## BASS COAST STATEMENT OF PLANNING POLICY (SPP)

The declaration for Bass Coast under the DALA (Distinctive Areas and Landscape Act) was the first step in the government's commitment to protect Bass Coast's distinctive attributes.

It triggers the development of a draft Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) by DELWP in partnership with the Bass Coast Shire Council and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC).

The objective is to have a framework plan that integrates social, environmental, economic and cultural heritage attributes; the plan may specify settlement boundaries or designate settlement boundaries as protected settlement boundaries.

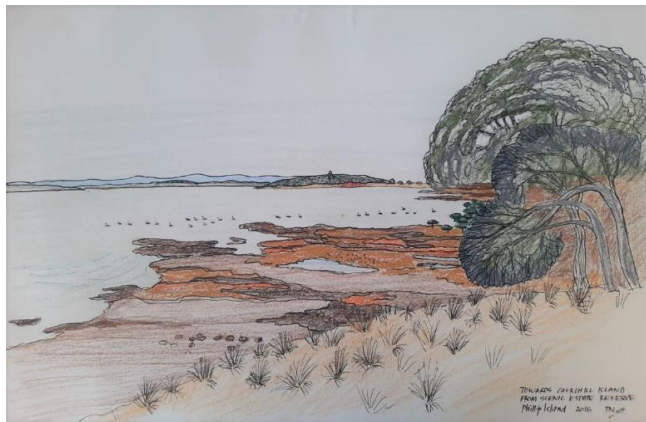
The SPP will create a framework for the future use and development of land in the DAL, it will include a 50-year vision identifying the values and attributes to be protected and enhanced.

Once the SPP is approved —it will be incorporated into the Bass Coast Planning Scheme through a planning scheme amendment and enforced through the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Some changes to local planning controls and policies may be needed to implement the SPP and ensure the DAL's highly valued attributes are protected and enhanced.

We are awaiting the preparation and release of the Statement of Planning Policy. When this is released PICS will carefully consider the statement and prepare a response before it is finalised.



## FRIENDS OF SCENIC ESTATE RESERVE (FOSER)



*Terry Nott - Image of Churchill Island*



*Terry Nott - Scenic Reserve 2016*

*These coloured pencil drawings were drawn shortly after the opening of the Reserve. It is interesting to note that since 2016 the melaleuca and other bushes have encroached upon this open grassland near the boardwalk. The Reserve is now 5 years old so these drawings may be of interest.*

## NO AGL CAMPAIGN

The Mornington Shire Council asked all community and environmental groups that made a submission to the Environmental Effects Statement, or appeared at the Inquiry and Advisory Committee Hearing, to be part of a short video that captures the passion of our collective opposition. They asked us to send an image with our logo and No AGL sign.

They sent the video to all State and Federal Ministers imploring the Government not to jeopardise our precious Bay for the sake of more fossil fuels. They will also circulate the video online to various media outlets.

PICS also co-signed a letter to the Ministers from Mornington Shire Council. Below is the PICS image of the new committee with the signage and one of the members photos, thanks Phil Wright.



## ANIMALS OF OZ

The Animals of OZ was a great success on 2 January 2021.

The Animals of Oz worked really well with the last minute change to the Recreation Grounds, we had around 50 people visit and 29 children. A few drifters come to watch and join in from the skate park or when walking by. Naturally we might have had more people at the Jetty Triangle, but it would have been a case of turning people away. Jesse from Animals of OZ was brilliant and the children were delighted to be able to touch and experience the animals at close range.





## Our Special Blue And Green Places

A sold-out Coastal Connections Concert took place at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre recently. It was the first live performance staged at the Arts Centre since the COVID era began, almost a year ago.

At the Concert, Mayor Brett Tessari launched seven new films which were the result of creative collaborations undertaken in the region during the COVID era.

The films feature images of the natural world in Bass Coast, intertwined with community members describing their special blue and green places. The soundtracks for the films were composed by local musicians.

The seventh film in the series has a Bass Coast-wide perspective. In the film, Ali Wastie, CEO of Bass Coast Shire Council says,

‘Bass Coast is my cathedral. It’s where I get my spirituality from. It’s where I seek renewal from. Whether it’s the Wonthaggi Wetlands, the beaches on Phillip Island, my own home at San Remo or here in Kilcunda. Whenever I feel I need some renewal time or new energy, I go outdoors, whether that be in the bush or walking along the sand. It’s magnificent that we’ve got this at our fingertips’.

She goes on to say, ‘I’ve learnt a lot from First Australians and their relationship with the natural world. They got it right’, she says with ‘their understanding of living on Country, respecting it and loving Country.’



Following on from Ali Wastie’s words, Boonwurrung Elder and language specialist Auntie Fay Stewart-Muir stresses the importance of people connecting to their special blue and green places, sitting and walking on Country with bare feet, listening to what Country is telling them.

The film finishes with Auntie Fay’s words, ‘The most important thing is that you care for Country and Country will care for you’.

It’s a profound and timely message for us all.

*Dr Laura Brearley*

# Significant Tree & Vegetation Register

Pictured is a *Eucalyptus radiata*, or Narrow-leaved Peppermint, among the graves at Phillip Island Cemetery. It was one of the first 15 nominations to the Phillip Island Significant Tree and Vegetation Register, which were presented as case studies at the public forum held to launch the project. It was nominated by PICS volunteers, John Eddy and Maria Venn, for its landscape, historic, social and habitat values.



It is an outstanding example of its species and makes an important contribution to the surrounding landscape. It is likely to be a tree that survives from the pre-European era and this, together with its location in the cemetery, give it significant historical and social importance. As a large, remnant indigenous tree, it provides outstanding habitat for birds and other fauna.

Jane Jobe

## Our Migratory Birds



Bar Tailed Godwit:  
Photo Melbourne Museum



Eastern Curlew:  
Photo Melbourne Museum

In the Silverleaves Conservation Society latest newsletter PICS found this interesting information.

Shorebirds such as eastern curlews, bar-tailed godwits and red-necked stints complete one of the world’s greatest migrations, flying thousands of kilometers south along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway from their Arctic breeding grounds. The birds arrive to feed at Rhyll Inlet between October and December and are due to begin this extraordinary non-stop journey back to the Arctic between March and April.

Rhyll Inlet is a declared Ramsar wetland of international significance to protect the habitat of migratory birds.



Red Necked Stint: :  
Photo Melbourne Museum

## Committees

### SUB-COMMITTEE OF PICS

#### Red Rocks Coastcare/

#### Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve:

Co-ordinator is John Eddy, Ph: 0418 398 682

Email: [johneddy1946@gmail.com](mailto:johneddy1946@gmail.com)

### OTHER GROUPS:

#### Friends of Koalas (FOK):

Contact Ph: 0419 552 385 or 0484 921 028

#### Friends of Churchill Island (FOCIS):

Email: [secretary@focis.org.au](mailto:secretary@focis.org.au)

#### Bird Life Bass Coast:

President: Gil Smith [basscoast@birdlife.org.au](mailto:basscoast@birdlife.org.au)

Secretary: Sue Woolley [basscoast@birdlife.org.au](mailto:basscoast@birdlife.org.au)

#### Bass Coast Climate Action Network:

Michael Nugent: [BassCoastCAN@gmail.com](mailto:BassCoastCAN@gmail.com)

Ph: 0416 039 933

### PICS COMMITTEE 2021

**President:** Jeff Nottle - Media enquiries –

Ph: 0419 158 232

**Vice President:** Jane Jobe

**Secretary:** Josephine Kent Ph: 0421 310 204

Email: [phillipislandconservation@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandconservation@gmail.com)

**Minutes Secretary:** Carmen Bush

**Treasurer:** Matthew Ingham

**Committee:** Margaret Hancock (planning), Penny Manning (Chair of c/ee meetings/planning), Terry Nott, Lisa Schonberg, Phil Wright, Anne Davie, Pauline Taylor, Dr Laura Brearley, Meg Anderson.

The Committee would like to thank Grazyna, our outgoing Minute Secretary, for her contribution and welcome our three new committee members Laura, Meg and Carmen.

The Committee meets at 9.30am on 1st Saturday of each month.

## Membership

If you like the work we do, why not become a member? By becoming a member of PICS, you help us continue our mission and in return, you will also receive these great benefits:

- Get 25% off entry prices to all Phillip Island Nature Parks including the Penguin Parade
- Receive "The Penguin" quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to exclusive presentation by expert Speakers on planning, wildlife, environment
- Access to advice on planning and environment matters that may effect you
- Opportunities to help the environment through volunteering days
- Be part of a like-minded community making a difference
- Public Fund donations are tax free

Single Membership - \$25/year

Family Membership - \$35/year

Concession Membership - \$15/year

Or just donate to the Public Fund.

To become a member or to donate go to our website and click on Become a Member

<https://picsvictoria.org.au/become-a-member/>

You can also download a form from the site or contact the secretary Josephine Kent, Ph: 0421 310 204 or Email: [phillipislandconservation@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandconservation@gmail.com)

***PICS Facebook page is getting a lot of notice in 2021 and items can also be found on our website. Please join the other 2900 people who like our page.***



<https://www.facebook.com/picsvictoria>