



## “The Penguin” Newsletter

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Website: [www.picsvictoria.org.au](http://www.picsvictoria.org.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/picsvictoria](http://www.facebook.com/picsvictoria)

Newsletter: December 2019

### Dates for Your Diary 2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Saturday 11 January, 7.30 p.m. Cultural Centre meeting room 1, followed by supper and chat.

GENERAL MEETING: 5.4.20, 2 p.m. Heritage Centre meeting room, 89 Thompson Ave Cowes. Speaker on waste/recycling in BCS.

GENERAL MEETING: 12.7.20, 2 p.m. Heritage Centre meeting room - Dave Donnelly re Western Port's Bryozoan reefs

GENERAL MEETING: 27.9.20 2 p.m. Heritage Centre meeting room - Ali Wastie Bass Coast Shire CEO

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve working bee dates TBA - 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Equipment and morning tea provided. All meet at SER car park

To be advised for Coastcare

*If you would like to receive emails regarding forthcoming working bees please email us at*

*phillipislandconservation@gmail.com and we will add your name to our working bee email/phone list.*

**Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Saturday 11 January, 7 p.m.  
Cowes Cultural Centre meeting room 1  
President's annual report; Treasurer's annual report  
Election of office bearers  
Awarding of 3 Life Memberships  
General Business. Supper.  
*All Welcome*

**Enquiries:** Christine Grayden, ph 0400 900 612 e [phillipislandconservation@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandconservation@gmail.com)

### Sub-committees of PICS:

**Red Rocks Coastcare/Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve:** Co-ordinator is John Eddy, ph 0418 398 682

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

### Other groups:

**Friends of Koalas (FOK)** Contact 0419552385 OR 0484921028.

**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), 0416 039 933

### PICS COMMITTEE 2019

President: Jeff Nottle

Vice President: Anne Davie

Secretary: Christine Grayden, ph 0400 900 612 e: [phillipislandconservation@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandconservation@gmail.com)

Minutes Secretary: Grazyna Mackiewicz

Treasurer: Matthew Ingham. Assistant Treasurer: Christine Grayden

Committee: Margaret Hancock (planning), Penny Manning (Chair of c/ee meetings/planning) Terry Nott, Lisa Schonberg, Phil Wright, Jane Jobe

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

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - JEFF NOTTLE

PICS was thrilled to recently be awarded an Environment Victoria 50th Anniversary Community Environment Award at a ceremony in Melbourne. The award for significant long term contribution to conservation in Victoria recognises “*Resilience in the face of repeated attempts to destroy the local environment at Westernport*”. The award also states “Your achievements serve as an example of what we can all achieve with courage and persistence”

The award is recognition of the constant vigilance that PICS has maintained over Western Port. Much of this work includes making submissions to Government and agencies on issues that will adversely impact on Western Port. The recent AGL plans to industrialise Western Port has seen PICS react with submissions to State and Federal Governments. AGL have delayed their plans so as to continue marine environmental studies that PICS also raised.

Whilst defending Western Port seems a relentless task it is certainly rewarding when PICS receives a State wide award.



*Recipients of the EV awards. PICS's Jeff Nottle in red shirt. Second from left is Graeme Burgan, long-time Phillip Island conservationist who also received an award.*

The PICS Significant Trees and Vegetation Register project being undertaken in conjunction with the National Trust Bass Coast has seen the hosting of a successful forum attended by 75 people. We had an excellent guest speaker, Dr Greg Moore, and PICS members provided excellent case studies of trees and vegetation that may be included in the register. Eight new volunteers have established an evaluation panel to consider the vegetation nominated. This is an excellent outcome and shows that the community is willing to work with PICS on this initiative. Council have been most supportive with 4 Councillors attending the session. PICS members and members of the community are able to nominate trees and vegetation for the register until the end of January. Nomination forms are on the PICS website and are available from Cowes Council office and Phillip Island Information Centres. PICS and the National Trust will present a joint final report to Council by the end of March next year.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Membership subscriptions are now due for 2020. A membership form is attached, or you can join online at our new website: <https://picsvictoria.org.au/become-a-member>. Please note that as per the resolution at the last AGM, membership fees have risen slightly this year for family and single memberships, but not for pensioners. Please note also that we are no longer using Paypal due to problems we have had in 2019. We now ask that you

pay by direct credit from your bank account or by cheque/postal order. Our bank account details are on the membership form. If you fill in the membership form online we get the form automatically. If filling in the paper form you will need to mail it to us at PO Box 548 COWES 3922 or scan and email to us. For either online form or paper form if paying by direct credit, please don't forget to put your surname/s on your bank payment as reference for us, otherwise we will have 'orphan' payments in our account and we won't know that you have paid your subscription. You can also email us at [phillipislandconservation@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandconservation@gmail.com) to let us know you have made your payment. We apologise for any inconvenience that the new arrangement may cause.

We wish to clarify the situation with regard to donations to PICS. As a donor you can choose to donate to our General Fund to contribute to our ongoing costs, such as insurance, advertising, room hire etc. Since our membership rates are quite low, such donations are very valuable to us. However, they are not tax deductible. At the forthcoming AGM we will be discussing the introduction of a "Gold" membership for \$200 p.a. for those of you who wish to offer special support to help us continue our work.

In order to receive a tax deductible receipt for donating to PICS you need to donate to the Public Fund. This fund has specific uses related to habitat protection/enhancement and education. This year PICS used Public Fund money to pay for expenses relating to the Phillip Island Significant Tree and Vegetation Register which aims to give a layer of protection to the trees/vegetation on the register. For 2020 we anticipate funds from the Public Fund going towards the production of a Field Guide to the Indigenous Flora of Millowli (Phillip Island), with which some PICS members are assisting. Donations of \$2 or more to the Public Fund are tax deductible.

If you have any questions about these arrangements, please contact the secretary, Christine Grayden, m 0400 900 612 or email PICS on [phillipislandconservation@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandconservation@gmail.com)

## ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2019

The annual reports of our sub-committees and groups on which we are represented below are no longer reported at the Annual General Meeting. They appear here and will also be on our new website under News - Reports, where you will also find previous annual reports going back to 2012. The President's and Treasurer's 2019 reports will be reported at the AGM and also included on the new website.

### TOTALLY RENEWABLE PHILLIP ISLAND

TRPI was formed at a packed Public Meeting in Cowes in June 2018. Since that time there are 6 very active sub-committees: Renewables, Transport, Food and Waste, Carbon Farming, Energy and Carbon Accounting.

TRPI held an Open Day at the Cultural Centre in early September this year. PICS had an Information Table in the Foyer. There was a lot of interest in Electric Vehicles and people were able to view these in the Town Square. Now there are a number of Battery Charge sites on the Island, including in the new Transit Centre.



A Carbon Auction was done by Landcare for TRPI in the Hall in the afternoon. Bimbadeen donated 367 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Monies were donated to Landcare and spent by TRPI on Carbon Farming on Phillip Island. This removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and assists in addressing Climate Change. As a result of the Auction, Phillip Island Farmers will be financially assisted to Carbon Farm.

A member of the TRPI Group has put in a small Biodigester and is allowing it to be a Case Study. TRPI has an Information Trailer that can regularly be seen at Community Events in the Shire. *Anne Davie*

### PRESERVE WESTERN PORT

Protecting Western Port from industrialisation and other threats is a guiding principle of PICS. The key focus over the last year has been campaigning against AGL who are planning to reprocess gas in a floating gasification plant. The plant will adversely impact the marine ecology and the flow on effects will impact our enjoyment of Western Port and the life it brings to our marine environment.

We have made representations to the State Government urging them to ensure that AGL undertakes and prepares an

Environmental Effects Statement (EES). We also made representation to the Federal Government to ensure that the EES review considers the impact of the Federal Environmental legislation. This was successful and the State ensured that an EES was required. We provided input into the scope of the EES to ensure it covered our main concerns. We worked with like minded environmental groups around Western Port and Environment Victoria in preparing a letter outlining our concerns on the gasification plant and provided the letter to AGL shareholders and the AGL Board. Together with Environment Victoria we attended the AGL AGM in Sydney and using a proxy nomination at the AGM we asked the Chair " Why should the Phillip Island community with its economy so dependent on the marine ecology and environment be a guinea pig and trust AGL to operate a high risk polluting industrial gasification plant in RAMSAR listed waters adjacent to the second most tourist dependent location in Australia?" Whilst we received a standard answer the Board and senior management all heard that we are opposed to this project.

We also made a submission as part of a review of EPA guidelines to seek to ensure that the high conservation waters of Western Port are not compromised during the review process. Needless to say our campaigning to protect Western Port is relentless. *Jeff Nottle*

### **COMMUNITY TOURISM REFERENCE GROUP**

The Group has met more regularly in 2019 and is now chaired by Cr Pamela Rothfield with Frank Angarene as Secretary.

PICS is well represented with Committee Members Jeff Nottle, Phil Wright and self and member Greg Johnson. We constantly and consistently re-enforce that the Visitor Economy Strategy states that the ENVIRONMENT IS THE ECONOMY.

The Visitor Economy 2035 is an excellent document and its TAKING ACTION Section sets the Agenda for the Meetings.

During the year there have been Presentations including Aspirational Pathways, Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Act, the Cowes Cultural Centre Redevelopment, Totally Renewable Phillip Island, Regional Roads Victoria and the Ambassador Training Program.

The Bass Coast Council submitted an Application to be recognized globally for conservation to the GSTC [ the global sustainable tourism criteria]. The Criteria includes maximizing social and economic benefits to the local community and reduction of the negative impacts to cultural heritage. It received notification during the year that the Application was successful at the first level of Certification and work will continue with this. *Anne Davie*



### **BCSC NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

The NES has met regularly every 3 months for 2 years. It is an excellent forum for hearing the issues and achievements of other groups and authorities. It would be more beneficial to meet more frequently to enable targets / actions to be identified and delivered.

The main unified activity was a visit to the erosion at Inverloch SLSC from which a motion was passed that stated – no vegetation should be removed as part of construction on new coastal pathway and a one way road should be constructed. Council ignored this motion from the community group and approved a path that enabled two way traffic with resultant vegetation removal.

From PICS perspective, there are three issues that have been addressed but the action is more bureaucratic than tangible.

1. **Tree Removal** – at no stage was VES asked to comment on the removal of trees at Cowes Cultural Centre. The Significant Tree Register has not been mentioned.
2. **Biolinks**- are mentioned in the report but it can be argued the good work comes from Landcare and is no way initiated by NES. The Biolinks have not been formalized with no direction about protecting significant vegetation on private property. For example on either side of Smiths Beach on the clifftops.
3. **Noise** – PICS rep presented to the meeting on 25/6/19 and this has resulted in discussions with EPA. There is no mention of noise in the annual report presented to the Council at the August meeting. It is hard to understand how Council could award a tourism award to PI Helicopters weeks after Councillors voted for a Climate Emergency. Helicopters generated massive levels of noise with each sound reminding nature lovers that more fuel is being burned.

It is recommended that PICS continue to attend meetings and attempt to change the lack of on-ground action from within the statutory framework. *Phil Wright*

### **FRIENDS OF SCENIC ESTATE RESERVE**

FOSER held 7 scheduled working bees in 2019 with an average attendance of 8 per event. Manual control of weeds - Stinkwort, Spear Thistle, Prickly Lettuce, Gorse and Capeweed - was the main focus. Bass Coast Shire also engaged contractors to spray Kikuyu, Bridal Creeper and denser patches of Gorse. Carmen Bush and I undertook a thorough survey of the main weed species over the whole of the reserve in March and mapped the locations for use as a management tool. We did revegetation work at the entrance from the carpark, with 5 cubic metres of mulch also spread, and at the Small Wetlands. Phil Wright assisted me in the annual monitoring of the encroachment of Swamp Paperbark into native grassland areas and we detected an increase of about 1 1/2 metres. Phil also helped me with the monitoring of coastal erosion at SER. For the third year in a row, no significant coastal recession was detected.



Alison Oates and I carried out our annual monitoring of plant communities in the main Ecological Vegetation Classes in November and found only minor changes in the composition of the communities. As co-ordinator of FOSEER I shared our knowledge of the Reserve in hosting the annual visit by RMIT students in September and gave a talk in November to the Friends of Churchill Island Society on the history of SER.

During the year we were shocked and saddened to lose our dear friend and FOSEER stalwart, Kate McLaughlin. Kate had supported the work of FOSEER from its inception, was involved in the community in other key ways and is sadly missed.

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped during 2019, and to Dave Martin (BCSC Natural Resources Officer) for his ongoing support and encouragement. *John Eddy.*

### **COASTCARE - RED ROCKS & SALTWATER CREEK**

Red Rocks Coastcare has remained largely inactive this year, due to revegetation work elsewhere on the coast. However, hand-weeding of the small numbers of Sea Spurge plants that emerge on the dunes has continued this year to prevent seed set. At Saltwater Creek, the Banksia Woodland Restoration project site has been monitored over 2019 and growth of trees, shrubs and Poa since planting in 2015-16 has been good. Wallaby guards could now be removed from many plants. During the year some additional planting of Coast Sword Sedge was undertaken, and Spear Thistle, Slender Thistle and boxthorn controlled. Contractors engaged by BCSC have sprayed Kikuyu and Tall Wheat Grass. *John Eddy, Red Rocks Coastcare Co-ordinator.*

### **SIGNIFICANT TREE & VEGETATION REGISTER**

The Phillip Island Significant Trees and Vegetation Register is being developed by PICS and the Bass Coast Branch of the National Trust, in consultation with the community and Bass Coast Shire Council. It aims to take stock of our locally significant trees and vegetation. By raising awareness of their value, the register will help us to advocate for better management and protection of these natural assets.

The register will be submitted to Bass Coast Shire Council by 27 March 2020. We hope that Council will adopt the register for immediate use to facilitate better management of listed trees and vegetation. We also envision that Council will use the register as a template for a shire-wide register and develop appropriate planning and local law controls to better protect listed trees and vegetation. Criteria of significance are based on National Trust tree register criteria, tailored to meet local needs, including habitat value. Criteria and nomination forms were tested at a well-attended public forum in October.

Nominations by the community will be assessed by a well-qualified panel of eight volunteers. They include two arborists, a botanist, and experts in terrestrial ecology, vegetation restoration, GIS and mapping, and architecture and design. We encourage all of you to nominate your favourite tree or patch of vegetation. Don't be discouraged if you



don't have full information about the tree or vegetation. Simply give what information you can on the nomination form, especially why the tree or vegetation is significant to you.

Forms and instructions are available at the Bass Coast Shire Council Customer Service Centre, Cowes, or online at [picsvictoria.org.au/significant-tree-vegetation-trial-register-nominations-now-open/](http://picsvictoria.org.au/significant-tree-vegetation-trial-register-nominations-now-open/)

To date, we have received 48 nominations covering 45 separate trees and areas of vegetation, which is a great start. Nominations will remain open until 31 January 2020. *Jane Jobe*

### **PLANNING**

Here we are at the end of a year which has been unusually quiet on the planning front. Only one trip to VCAT! And only for half a day. This was a preliminary hearing about a proposed caravan park adjacent to the Forrest Caves parking area, on land which is sometimes subject to inundation. We were well prepared for the proposed four day hearing, but it came to nothing as the proponent withdrew the application.

An application before council for a four-lot subdivision of land situated on the south side of the eastern end of Settlement Rd, also subject to inundation, was rejected by the council. The owners were proposing to give the remaining 40 ha to the Phillip Island Nature Parks if they got the subdivision. This will probably go to VCAT.

PICS initially objected to a small concrete batching plant at Blue Gum Garden Supplies in Dunsmore Rd, but PICS secretary Christine Grayden and Minutes Secretary Grazyna Mackiewicz visited the site and spoke to the owners and it became clear that the problems of dust and noise had already been taken into account.

It is 20 years since "Olive Justice Place" came into public ownership and at last it's appropriate development is coming up for consideration. Olive Justice specifically wanted a place where women could breastfeed their babies in comfort and privacy, so this is an essential part of whatever happens on this precious piece of land. But then what else do we need? Something I would suggest is a green space where people could sit down comfortably. And how about a "Traveller's Aid"? The sort of place where people could meet up, perhaps some lockers so that backpackers had somewhere safe to leave their backpacks or other luggage. If you are at the Southern Cross station, please take the time to visit "Travellers' Aid" there and consider how this sort of concept could fit in with Olive's wishes. "Olive Justice Place" is a rare opportunity to do something really worthwhile for our community and our many visitors - so let's do some positive thinking!

*Margaret Hancock*

### **DIGITAL PRESENCE**

In 2019 we continued to maintain a very popular Facebook page with a reach of between 300 - 5,000 on each post, many comments and many Likes. Our FB page has 2525 followers and is updated daily with Phillip Island environment news and flora and fauna images with stories. Our thanks to Lisa Schonberg and John Eddy who have provided images for us again in 2019. While most of the comments on our posts are quite civilised, we do occasionally have posts where people opposed to our views attempt to hijack the comments. The page is monitored, and negative comments are removed as soon as possible. PICS is an a-political organisation, so we do not have political content on our FB page. We have gained a number of members who have found us on Facebook.

This year PICS was able to secure a \$700 Bass Coast Shire Council community grant to re-do our website, as the Wordpress theme for the old website is no longer supported. The new website is almost completed but is now online at [picsvictoria.org.au](http://picsvictoria.org.au). We would like to thank Steven Angel who has worked so hard on the new website, and organised a Wordpress developer, Leon of eStorm Media, to set up the new theme and layout for us. Local developer Simon Eddy and I will be finishing the process by updating &/or adding more detail to content. The old website served us well for many years, but we hope you enjoy the new website. Once it's online we will let all members know.

*Christine Grayden*

### **FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY INC**

The 2019 AGM saw the retirement of David Maunders as president after four years in the role. He was a very dynamic president who worked hard to create a good working relationship between FOCIS and the Phillip Island Nature Parks - a

relationship which new president Graeme Clausen will continue with regular three monthly meetings with PINP. FOCIS contributed \$10,000 of our own funds and a \$5,000 Bass Coast Shire Council grant to the building of an extension to the shed housing the historic farm machinery in order to create a better display. We also contributed \$2,700 towards signage, and worked with interpretation officer Ailsa Batey to develop the signage. The shed extension is complete, and we are hopeful that the signage will be in place during January and will considerably improve the visitors' understanding of the function of the machines.

FOCIS held 4 working bees during the year in Amess House and Rogers Cottages and on the farm machinery and shedding. A few FOCIS volunteers also clean regularly during the year as the curator's position was dropped from 20 hours per fortnight to 15 hours per fortnight making it impossible for the curator to keep up with these tasks by themselves. FOCIS has lobbied PINP to increase the hours to 2 full days per week. Meanwhile FOCIS continues to have four meetings with speakers per year, a quarterly newsletter and a Facebook page updated every few days. *Pauline Taylor*



*FOCIS committee 2019-20. Pauline at left.*

## **PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 29.9.2019**

Welcome and acknowledgement of Bunurong country

1. PRESENT: As per attendance book
2. APOLOGIES: As per attendance book
3. The meeting was preceded by a Power Point talk given by Professor Peter Macreadie, Blue Carbon Lab, Deakin University who spoke about the extremely high carbon value of seagrass meadows, mangroves and saltmarsh; the history of abuse and current problems facing these ecosystems; and the research being done on them.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday 14.7.2019 Margaret Hancock/Grazyna Mackiewicz.  
*Carried.*
5. Dave Sutton, South Gippsland Conservation Society, addressed the meeting updating regarding the erosion at Inverloch, BCSC bad decision to remove foreshore vegetation for a pedestrian/cycle path, wet sand fencing to try to stop erosion, taking Marine and Coastal Council on a tour of area, proposal for large canal development at Maher's Landing.
6. Matters arising:
  1. Cruise ships, effect on Observation Point and buses on Cowes-Rhyll Rd. Letter from Parks Victoria. No concerns, but monitoring situation.
  2. Distinctive Areas and Landscapes: PICS made a detailed submission. Lots of participation by the public and groups in this process. Phil Wright suggested that all the main organisations' DAL submissions should be collected and main themes extracted for a summary document for Bass Coast councillors.

3. Website: PICS member Steve Angel is working on this with Christine. Now with a Wordpress developer. Content and photos then to be added.
4. Blue Gum Reserve master plan - PICS made a submission
5. Totally Renewable PI: very successful day. Lots of interest in Scenic Estate Reserve on PICS table. Jan Fleming suggested that water needed to be provided for the birds at the reserve. Could be collected from roofs of picnic shelters.
6. Climate Emergency petition: Bass Coast Shire declared a climate emergency at August meeting.
7. Coastal and Marine Policy - PICS made a submission. One of the problems with the draft policy is the structure for dealing with conflict over proposed developments on coast and marine areas.
8. Jeff, Penny Manning and Pauline Taylor meeting with Jordan Crugnale Member for Bass. Positive meeting. Wide-ranging discussion where PICS made clear what we stand for and what we do. Jordan also raised issues.

## **7. Reports:**

### John Eddy

1. Field Guide to the Flora of Millowl (Phillip Island). This is a project by Mitch Burrows and John is helping him. Mitch has a grant from the Wettenhall Philanthropic Foundation to produce the guide. Line drawing illustrations are being done by Tegan Carter. They are covering the 250 most common plants. Mitch will be speaking with the PICS cee next cee meeting. He is looking to PICS for support and PICS will be a beneficiary of sales. The guide will take about 2 years to prepare.
2. Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve: John and Carmen Bush have produced a weed map to guide contractors with e.g. bridal creeper and gorse control. Wet winters turn SER into a wetland wonderland with many water plants and tadpoles in the big ruts left by vehicles in the 'bad old days'

On his last walk through SER John heard a Common froglet and one Pobblebonk frog, saw two Copperhead snakes, one echidna and one black cat.

3. Dieback committee: John is the PICS rep on this cee which is trying to find the cause for the dieback of many Eucalypts on Phillip Island over the last 10-15 years. PINP paid for soil tests to have soil samples analysed for Phytophthora and nutrients. No Phytophthora was found and no particular chemical or physical reason for soil not being suitable for Eucalypts. Looks like it could be a soil-borne disease. May be related to over-browsing by possums. This could be due to climate change causing changes in moisture uptake by the trees and they are not producing compounds to help them fend off possums. May have to change planting regimes. Affecting swamp and manna gums; blue gums more resilient.

### Jeff Nottle & Jane Jobe: Significant Tree and Vegetation Register:

Jane and Jeff have presented to BCSC at Community Connections sessions twice and been well received. Entered into an agreement with the Bass Coast branch of the National Trust to work together to achieve the register. Loss of trees is now a focus of the community. Jane researched other municipalities and BCNT gave feedback and criteria and a nomination form are being developed. John Eddy and Maria Venn are looking for suitable trees to use as examples for a workshop to be held as part of the forthcoming Significant Tree & Vegetation Register Forum. We are planning to have a panel of suitably qualified people to assess the nominations. Although the Register will not protect trees from 'infrastructure disasters' it will put the Register trees at the forefront of public's and BCSC's minds. If trees to be nominated are on private land, must have the written consent of landholder. Cowes PS sanctuary - important to go on the Vegetation Register. We have invited all schools to come to the forum, including CPS.

### Save Westernport and Western Port Protection Council representatives

Reports on action regarding the AGL proposal for a gas import facility at Crib Point. They thanked Jeff for attending the AGL AGM and asking question as a proxy for an Environment Victoria member in Sydney recently. They also asked hard-hitting questions. It is clear that AGL do not have a social licence to proceed with this project as there is a great deal of opposition on the Mornington Peninsula as well as from PICS. People need to be transitioning away from gas - too many emissions. PoH shipping of hydrogen from La Trobe

Valley Japanese trial - need to monitor marine pests possibly coming in on those vessels. Major problem with carbon sequestration.

Ron Day: Ongoing monitoring of Wildlife Road Kills section of Cowes-Rhyll Rd

Ron has been counting for 8 months during which time 200 animals of a variety of species have been killed. BCSC has provided \$30,000 to trial virtual fencing along there. Victoria University has a student doing a paper on the effectiveness of the system.

8. Treasurer's Report

Christine Grayden presented the report for July-Sep. Report accepted. Christine Grayden/Pauline Taylor  
*Carried.*

9. General Business:

a) Phillip Island Integrated Transport Strategy meeting - Phil Wright. Phil reported that at the last meeting Regional Roads Victoria reported on projects for Phillip Island then walked out without listening to concerns or responses.

b) It was reported that Western Port Water did not have a project arborist to assess the Red Gums so badly affected by digging for pipe repair works after root damage to pipes that the trees had to be removed for safety reasons.

c) Phil reported that BCSC has done a report on noise from the Grand Prix circuit for the Natural Environment Strategy committee. He pointed out that the Leongatha motor racing facility is strictly limited to the number of days and hours they can operate. GP circuit should be also.

d) Pauline Taylor commented regarding forthcoming Black Spot road works on the Cowes Rhyll Rd. Christine and others will research Black Spots and investigate what exactly contractor will be doing.

Meeting closed 5.14 p.m.



*Red gums that were removed from Church St Cowes due to damage to water pipes from their roots. When these trees were planted about 100 years ago they never thought back then that the town would have a piped water supply at all, let alone one that went alongside the trees they had planted.*

**NOMINATING FOR THE PICS COMMITTEE**

Please find attached/enclosed a nomination form to join our committee at the AGM on Saturday January 11, 2020. You must be a financial member to stand for any committee position. You can fill in the nomination form and return it to us PO Box 548, COWES, 3922 or scan and email to [phillipislandconservation@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandconservation@gmail.com) or bring it along to the AGM with you. Nominations are able to be taken on the night. The committee meets on the first Saturday of each month (not in January), 9.30 a.m. usually in the Emmaus Room of St Philip's Parish Hall. The AGM determines by motion the number of people on the committee, so it is not an inflexible number. We welcome your input!

### SOME IMAGES OF PICS IN 2019



Significant Tree and Vegetation Register forum



Environment groups' reps at AGL AGM



Blue Carbon talk, Dr Peter Macreadie



Clean Up Australia by FOSER