



NEWSLETTER OF
PHILLIP ISLAND
CONSERVATION SOCIETY EST. 1968

WEBSITE : picsvictoria.org.au

FACEBOOK : facebook.com/picsvictoria

EDITORS : Christine Grayden & John Eddy
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Third Quarter: September 2016

Dates for Your Diary 2016

Red Rocks Coastcare (starting at 10 a.m. from the carpark)

Sunday 25th Sep: angled onion control and rubbish clean up

Sunday 20th Nov: Spurgebusters at Justice Rd (sea spurge seedling control)

Saltwater Creek Coastcare (starting at 10 a.m., but will start from various locations. You will be advised closer to the time)

Sunday 23rd Oct (Warning: GP weekend)

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve (all working bees are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and start from the SER carpark)

Sunday 11 Dec: possible mangrove planting in intertidal zone (TBC)

PICS General Meetings:

Saturday 24th September, 7.30 p.m. Heritage Centre meeting room, 89 Thompson Ave Cowes. Speaker: Jane Toner, biomimicry expert, will talk about "Genius of Place". Come along and hear this very different perspective on architecture and nature.

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
GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 24 September, 2016, 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: Jane Toner

“Genius of Place”

“Living gracefully on earth guided by the elegant survival strategies
Nature has evolved over 3.8 billion years”

Followed by reports and general business

Heritage Centre meeting room, 89 Thompson Ave Cowes.

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

PICS members will be delighted to learn that the Scenic Estate Reserve renewal has been named as a finalist in the Tidy Towns Competition. This recognition is as a result of the dedicated work of the Bass Coast shire environment staff and contractors, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Parks Victoria, and the Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve with the inspirational leadership by John Eddy. Congratulations from all of us.

PICS now has car stickers with the logo and the words I Love Phillip Island. Our thanks to committee member Steve Angel for their production. They will be available at the PICS stall in Cowes during the year and are now at Turn the Page bookshop in Thompson Avenue.

The annual Bass Coast Shire Environment Groups get-together is at the Environment Centre, Inverloch on Saturday, October 8th at 1.30. It is always an informative and friendly afternoon.

The Phillip Island and San Remo Tourism Strategy has stated strongly that the future for the Island is its Environment. It is the economy.

The news that the State Government has banned coal-seam gas exploration has been warmly welcomed, particularly in Gippsland.

Phillip Island is hosting two very interesting Conferences in the next few weeks. The Rural Women's Conference will be held in the second week of September.

A larger Conference, Museums Australia Victoria, is in the first week of October and will be held in the Cowes Cultural Centre. The Thursday evening tour and cocktail dinner will take place on Churchill Island.

The Conservation Society will once again hold a Meet the Candidates night for the upcoming local Council elections. This is the first election to be held since Bass Coast was divided into 3 Wards – Phillip Island, Westernport and Bunorung. It is great to see quite a number of people throwing “their hat in the ring”, so it will be an interesting evening.

The date is Friday 7th October, the venue is the Parish Hall in Thompson Avenue and the starting time is 7.30 pm. Please note that if you intend asking a question you have one minute and no more to ask your question, and only one question per asker. Everyone is welcome. Entry is by gold coin donation.

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. Our secretary Christine Grayden is currently doing both jobs. Please contact her if you are able to take on the treasurer's position: cgrayden@waterfront.net.au

Port report to probe need for second port

From Bass Coast Post online local news and opinion website: www.basscoastpost.com



By Jeff Nottle
September 10, 2016

THE Preserve Western Port Action Group welcomes the recently released Infrastructure Victoria (IV) discussion paper on the future capacity of ports in Victoria.

The proposed approach, transparency and engagement model adopted by IV to these important issues embraces what we have been calling for since the State Government announced its intention to establish the new entity before the 2014 state election.

Significantly it marks an end to the political rhetoric, vested interests approach adopted by the former Liberal State Government which sought to justify industrialising Western Port with a container port using slogans and a scare

campaign. Gone are the incorrect “natural deep water port” and “blasting of the Port Phillip Heads” slogans and the highly criticised “build it and they will come” economic analysis.

The Special Minister of State has formally requested IV to provide advice by May 2017 on if and when we need to build a second container port; and whether a second port should be located at Bay West (in Port Phillip Bay, between Werribee and Geelong) or at Hastings.

IV will consider environmental, economic and social impacts in preparing their advice and recommend a range of years in which they think extra capacity may be required. The paper recognises that there is considerable debate around future growth rates of container trade, capacity of existing ports and the size of container ships that are likely to visit Victorian ports. Changing consumption patterns and new technology like 3D printing will influence future demand for containers and ports capacity. As a result different demand and capacity scenarios will be developed.

IV has also recognised that maximising the capacity of existing ports will ensure that a second port is built only when it is needed and that increasing capacity before it is required would be financially imprudent.

It assumes that once government has decided to invest in a second container port it is likely to be somewhere between 10-15 years from the time of the decision to an operational port at either the Hastings or Bay West sites. The long lead time is why the issue is being considered now and why we as a community need to be engaged in the process now.

In relation to the location question, IV will examine existing reports and carry out some targeted technical studies to fill in the knowledge gaps. We believe the studies should include the impact on erosion and inundation following the required dredging on the Western Port coastlines and in particular the impact of further erosion on the north shore of Phillip Island. Impacts on tourism, penguins, employment, recreational fishing and boating as well as amenity of Westernport also need to be considered.

The Preserve Western Port Action Group will continue to research and prepare submissions to IV and to be further engaged in the consultation phase. In this initial phase of engagement, stakeholders and residents can visit [Infrastructure Victoria](#) to:

- Complete the feedback form to comment on the key factors for deciding when a second port will be needed, and where it should be located;
- Provide existing evidence to develop our evidence base and assist in informing Infrastructure Victoria’s advice; and
- Register your interest in upcoming engagement opportunities for the port advice in 2016.

Information gathered in 2016 will be incorporated into a report presenting Infrastructure Victoria’s evidence base, which will be released for another phase of engagement in early 2017.

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

Email: preservewesternport@gmail.com

Web: www.preservewesternport.org.au

Preserve Western Port Action Group is auspiced by PICS.

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve

Community Planting Day

Our Community Planting Day on Sunday, 26th June was most successful, with 10 volunteers braving the wet and the sticky mud to put in 350 plants, strengthening the planting around the main Wetlands, and starting the revegetation of some of the bare “Hoon” areas in the centre of the Reserve. During the morning, we trialled the use of the wonderfully-named Pottiputki planters, which allow rapid planting of plants from Hiko trays (smaller than standard tubes, and

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve contd...

round) and are supposed to avoid the need to crouch down or bend over. (Sounds good for oldies!) However, they did not work so well in the very sticky clay we were dealing with, and most of our volunteers seemed to favour the more standard methods.



Wetlands full after good rain



Water lying near recent planting in grasslands



Butterfly sculpture before being blown down and after restoration.



Butterfly Blown Away!

On 22nd July, much to our dismay, strong winds damaged the iconic Butterfly sculpture. The “butterfly” section was detached from the “flower” section, but fortunately fell within the fenced enclosure. I was alerted, and visited the Reserve the next day, and picked up some scattered bits. The sculptor, DAK, later picked up the damaged section, and it has been rebuilt in a slightly altered form. The beautiful butterfly was reunited with its flower in the carpark during late August, and we are delighted to have it back.

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve continued...

Land Acquisition

Of the original 337 allotments in the Scenic Estate subdivision, 166 are still in private ownership. The Land Acquisition process for these blocks has recently passed some critical hurdles. The Scenic Estate Land Acquisition Report was on the agenda for the Council meeting on the 17th August, after the Council, in July, received government approval to compulsorily acquire the blocks through the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act. In 2015, Council had determined to pursue this course of action, and had set aside \$227,000 to fund it. The August 2016 Council meeting unanimously carried the recommendation that the land acquisition be completed, and authorised the CEO to make the necessary negotiations and arrangements. Great news indeed for the Reserve, after all these years! But the process could take many months, so we need to be patient.

Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Nomination

The Council has nominated Scenic Estate Reserve for a Tidy Towns award, which may seem at first glance to be a little ironic considering the Reserves history! However, there is a category - “Sustainable Communities/Protection of the Environment”- that fits us well. On 12th July, a judge, Brian, visited the Reserve with the Council’s land and catchment coordinator, Diana Whittington, and myself. Weather conditions were very unpleasant, with strong cold winds and showers, but despite that, I think a good impression was made.

We have now been notified that Scenic Estate Reserve is in fact a finalist for this award, and a presentation to that effect will be made at the Reserve by the Tidy Towns folk on **Wednesday, 21st Sept at 2.30pm**. Please come along to celebrate if you can! The major presentation to winners in all categories will be on 15th Oct, in Horsham. If anyone would like to attend that event, contact me for details.

A Vegetation Management Plan for the Reserve

The FOSER committee sees the need for a detailed Vegetation Management Plan for the Reserve as being a high priority. The Phillip Island Conservation Society has recently contributed \$2500 to fund the project, with the Council adding a further \$500. We have been fortunate to secure the services of botanist Kate Bennetts to draw up the plan. She is very familiar with the Reserve, having assisted the Council with parts of the Stage 1 development. Kate will start work on the Plan in October.

Mangrove Planting to Protect our Eroding Coast

Directly to the north of Scenic Estate Reserve lies the Churchill Island Marine National Park, managed by Parks Victoria. Thierry Rolland, senior PV ranger for Western Port, is keen to establish more mangroves in the intertidal zone in front of the eroding cliffs of the Reserve’s coast, to try to slow down the erosion which is gradually destroying the valued



Moonah woodland. He has obtained several hundred mangrove seedlings, and a brief survey of the sediments at the site will be done soon to determine suitable areas for planting, which could take place in September. Volunteers will be needed for the planting, and we will let you know the details soon. Stay tuned!

Mangrove planting site in front of eroding cliffs.

The Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve is a group auspiced by PICS.

PLASTIC BAG FREE BASS COAST

Are you an advocate for a plastic bag free Bass Coast? Did you know there was a new group around dedicated to this cause? And that BCSC has a plastic bag free shire as one of its key objectives? Here is an article on the local group from the latest Coastline newsletter:

Plastic Bag Free Bass Coast

Cynthia Marrier

In late June 2016 a new group officially formed, calling themselves PLASTIC BAG FREE BASS COAST. This group aims to reduce plastic pollution in the area. Membership of the new group comprises representatives from Clean Ocean Foundation, the Mayor of Bass Coast Shire, South Gippsland Conservation Society, Bass Coast Climate Action and Bass Coast Community Waste Action Group and numerous other community members.

One action proposed by the group is to start making 100s of hand sewn cloth shopping bags from recycled material, to be distributed to local shops in Inverloch. There is opportunity for everyone to get involved by sewing or cutting out bags, donating unused material, promoting the bags and other action.

Bass Coast Shire Council and councillors are very supportive of the project and the new group and are attending local meetings. Council's Natural Environment Strategy has a plastic bag free shire as a key action and has been recently discussed at ministerial roundtables. This means Bass Coast Shire Council can work in partnership with PLASTIC BAG FREE BASS COAST to achieve this goal.

A series of awareness and educational events and activities on the Bass Coast, run by Plastic Pollution Solutions and aimed at all age groups are planned for November 2016. This is to be held in conjunction with the official launch of PLASTIC BAG FREE BASS COAST.

Recognising how the Bass Coast area relies heavily on tourism, reducing disposable plastic and plastic pollution in our streets, oceans and waste streams will reduce the amount of plastic entering the ocean and human food chains, and save the shire/ratepayers money. Clean Ocean Foundation say; "The health and stability of our biosphere, especially our oceans is critical to the survival of humans and all other species. Plastic pollution poses a huge threat to the Earth."

For further information about the new PLASTIC BAG FREE BASS COAST group please contact the group co-ordinator Ed Thexton email: edriparian@gmail.com



Phillip Island Conservation Society, Inc.

The Penguin Newsletter

Third Quarter: September 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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