



## “The Penguin” Newsletter

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### Newsletter: September 2018

#### Dates for Your Diary 2018

To be advised for Coastcare groups

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

Sunday 30 Sep, 2 p.m. In lieu of a meeting we will be having our **50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration** at the Heritage Centre meeting room, 89 Thompson Ave Cowes (note change of venue) 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. See invitation in this newsletter for details.

Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>: **150<sup>th</sup> parade.** 11 a.m. meet at Cultural Centre. Volunteers needed. Please see article.

**PICS Planning meeting:** Saturday 17 November, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lunch provided. Please let us know of any special dietary requirements. Cultural Centre meeting room 1, cnr Thompson Ave and Church St Cowes. Come along and share your thoughts on the next 50 years of PICS operations. **RSVP to Christine Grayden m 0400 900 612**

**e: [cdgrayden@gmail.com](mailto:cdgrayden@gmail.com) by Wednesday 14 November.**

AGM: Sat 6 Jan 2019, meeting room 1, Cultural Centre Cowes

**Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve:**

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

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Site Maintenance

**Enquiries:** Christine Grayden, ph 5956 8501 m 0400 900 612 e: [cdgrayden@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:johneddy1946@gmail.com) (note change of email address)

**Saltwater Creek Coastcare:** Co-ordinator is Kevin Harris [kevin@grating.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@focis.org.au)

**Groundswell Bass Coast Climate Change action group:** <http://groundswellbasscoast.com> Contact Pauline Taylor: [gpctaylor@gmail.com](mailto:gpctaylor@gmail.com)

**Bird Life Bass Coast:** Penny Manning, convener, [penny@waterfront.net.au](mailto:penny@waterfront.net.au)



#### PICS COMMITTEE 2018

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

Vice President: Jeff Nottle

Secretary: Christine Grayden, ph 5956 8501 e: [cdgrayden@gmail.com](mailto: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. on 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of each month at Community Emmaus Room, Parish Hall Cowes.

# *Letter from the President*

## *Anne Davie*

There is a lot happening on Phillip Island in the next few months.

And there are 2 important Hearings at VCAT with regard to Applications for significant proposals on Phillip Island. One is for a Caravan Park at Forrest Caves and the other is an Amendment to the Planning Scheme as part of the Cowes Activity Plan. The outcomes will have an impact on Phillip Island, now and into the future. The Conservation Society will appear at both Hearings.

The Conservation Society will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Heritage Centre, Cowes at 2 pm on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is a great opportunity to reminisce and revisit the many PICS Campaigns over so many years. Please join us.

As part of the Phillip Island 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations, a Community Street Parade will be held along Thompson Avenue, on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am. PICS will be participating and is wanting some members to help carry the PICS banner or walk behind it.

On Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the Cultural Centre meeting room 1, PICS is having a Planning Session. The Committee thought that it would be a valuable exercise to look at the Society's role for the next 50 years. Greg Johnson, long-time PICS member and stalwart, has agreed to be the Facilitator which is great. It is hoped many members will come along and contribute with ideas and to the discussions.

I know members will want to congratulate, Christine Grayden, our dedicated PIC Secretary, for her recent prestigious award. She is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from Museums Australia (Victoria). Her contribution to the preservation of and education about Phillip Island's history is legendary and it is wonderful that this has been recognised. Bravo Christine!!

## **Planning Report**

### **Margaret Hancock**

So far it's been a fairly quiet year on the planning front, but now it's "Action Stations". The Shire's consultants prepared C151 regarding proposals for central Cowes including the Isle of Wight and Warley Hospital sites. Among other contentious recommendations was a suggestion of six or seven storeys on the Warley Hospital site! I guess that shows creative thinking, but it also shows little understanding of community sensibility.

If you will be in the City of Melbourne between Monday October 22 and Thursday October 26, come along to VCAT at 55 King Street and be an observer of the hearing of the proposal for a caravan park at Surf Beach. The hearings run from 10 a.m. til 4 p.m. each day, and observers can just drop in when it suits them. You will not only get good free entertainment, but you also will learn a lot – and be an encouragement to the people who are representing you against this proposal.



The 'glamping' proposal at Red Rocks has been withdrawn by the proponent – but something else may well appear in its place. We've probably all been following the "Ventnor Land" saga with interest, and perhaps some amusement! BUT PICS fought hard for the establishment of town boundaries on Phillip Island, and we must be ever vigilant to maintain them.

I hope to see you at our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. But before you come, just go out to Conservation Hill, and just purr contentedly as you view the hillside and the Rhyll Inlet – there's not a marina or an associated housing subdivision in sight. Say to yourself: "We done that!"

PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC  
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 8.7.2018  
Held in Cowes museum

Welcome and acknowledgement of indigenous peoples.

PRESENT: As per attendance book

APOLOGIES: As per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 8 April (as distributed in June newsletter). Penny Manning/Bob Baird  
*Carried.*

Matters arising:

Car ferry seems to have 'been and gone' for the time being. Since there is a state election in November any action on a car ferry is unlikely soon.

PICS is holding its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in lieu of the next general meeting, Sunday 30 September.

**Reports:**

Coastcare/FOSER report – John Eddy. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 14 volunteers put in 250 plants to extend Moonahs inland to compensate for the coastal erosion. Moonahs and Bursarias are guarded against wallabies. Two other areas have been planted: Stinkwort flats – weed now removed; beds at entrance near car park. On 8<sup>th</sup> July in bad weather 7 volunteers put in 210 plants at Stinkwort flats + Moonah. New signage for the reserve is due any day.

John also reported on the Rhyll Coast Action project in which he is involved to revegetate Pleasant Point (end McFees Rd). John greatly appreciated all the help from PICS members Ross, Bruno and Sue. The RCA planting day was very successful.

Planning – Margaret Hancock: Isle of Wight C151 – the right of appeal to VCAT will be obliterated by this amendment. The VonMueller tree is sacrosanct. Margaret reported that PICS had the Hoop Pine measured on 12.9.2000 and it was 34.8m Australian Height Datum. Need to have all of the old trees measured. PICS has recently had an offer of technical help. Christine will investigate to see if this person can help in this case. C151 also allows for 7 storeys on the Warley Hospital site! Far too tall. Margaret asked for members to put their objection in writing. PICS will object, but is meeting with a council planner to get clarification first. The first proposal to redevelop the Isle of Wight site was in 1989.

**Treasurer's report:**

Christine Grayden presented the report. Christine Grayden/ Margaret Hancock "That the treasurer's report be accepted".  
*Carried.*

**Correspondence** dealt with by committee at yesterday's meeting

**General Business:**

1. Anne Davie reported that she has been involved in the consultation sessions on the Phillip Island Nature Parks 30 year plan. This has been facilitated by Greening Australia and a draft should be out in next few months.
2. Anne also reported that she is representing PICS on the 100% renewable Phillip Island committee.
3. PhilWright reported that he is the PICS representative on the Bass Coast Shire's Natural Environment Strategy and is pushing to work with the EPA to control noise on the race track. This was in the first draft of the strategy, but not in the final draft. PICS should write a submission on how BCSC and EPA can work together on this issue.
4. Sue Saliba reported that the Glamping proposal at Appley Ave Red Rocks, backing onto the fire track at the foreshore, has been withdrawn. There were many objections.

5. Sue also reported that the Barb Martin Bush Bank, now managed by PINP, will be open sometime this month. She will be getting 30 more plants for Bayview Park, which accounts for the residue of funding provided by the PICS Public Fund for this project.

6. Ron Day raised the issue of wildlife road kills. PICS always get a high response to this issue on the Facebook page. There is a lot of interest and deep concern for this issue. Ron has been liaising with PINP to organise a meeting with Vicroads on the issue. Bob Baird reported that on his daily walks he sees evidence of Eastern Barred Bandicoots in the Oswin Roberts Reserve and said they were moving towards the Cowes-Rhyll Rd where they are in danger of being run over. Ron said this was a real wildlife kill hotspot and that one solution might be to reduce the speed limit there to 60 kph during the day and 40 kph from dusk til dawn. Also need for good signage. Bob suggested that suitable fencing may help.

**Speaker:** Lynda Hanlon spoke and showed a Power Point presentation about “Coastal mycology - 'friendly' fungi in sand dunes.”

*Invitation to  
Phillip Island Conservation  
Society's*

*50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration*

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 2 p.m.

Heritage Centre Meeting Room, 89 Thompson Ave Cowes

(note change of venue)

Displays, scrap books, Power Point, short speeches,  
food, cuppas, chatting, catching up!

Please RSVP to Christine Grayden 0400 900 612

[cdgrayden@gmail.com](mailto:cdgrayden@gmail.com) by Wednesday 26 Sep.

## On Board the M/Y Steve Irwin for Sea Shepherd

PICS Vice President Jeff Nottle has been on board the Sea Shepherd flagship the M/Y Steve Irwin as part of Operation Reef Defence to oppose the Adani Carmichael coal mine, rail link and coal port. Jeff was on the ship as a Quartermaster in the bridge for 2 weeks as it visited key coastal communities including: Coffs Harbour, Sydney Harbour, Byron Bay, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Noosa, Agnes Water, Yeppoon, MacKay, Arlie Beach and Abbot Point.

Jeff Hansen, Managing Director, Sea Shepherd Australia stated: “Australians will not trade the Great Barrier Reef for a destructive climate catastrophe coal mine, which directly puts at risk 64,000 Australian jobs that the reef supports. It’s a simple choice, coal or coral, protecting an Australian icon or killing her with one of the world’s biggest coal mines, because the fact is, we cannot have both”.

Jeff sees a lot of similarities between the coal or coral fight on the Great Barrier Reef and the ongoing threats to industrialise Western Port. As a result of discussions with senior Sea Shepherd executives on the marine impacts that industrialisation would have in Western Port Jeff also believes PICS can develop a good long term relationship with Sea Shepherd. *Jeff Nottle.*



Jeff at left with M/Y Steve Irwin captain Mal Holland.



The Steve Irwin, photo Lisa Schonberg

# AGL PLANS GAS IMPORT TERMINAL FOR WESTERN PORT

Western Port continues to face the threat of heavy industrialisation with a plan by AGL to operate a gas import terminal at Crib Point.

Under the plan, AGL will permanently moor a floating liquid natural gas(LNG) storage and regasification unit (FSRU) – a ship approximately 300 metres long, 49 metres wide and 11 to 12 metres deep – at Crib Point. This is larger than the container ships that typically visit the Port of Melbourne. AGL is expecting to take deliveries from up to 40 LNG ships per year, which will berth alongside the FSRU to offload LNG. This is a significant increase over the 100 to 150 ships that already visit the Port of Hastings per year.

The FSRU will regasify the LNG by warming it using the ambient heat of seawater. To do this, its heat exchange system will take in 450 million litres of seawater per day. The discharged seawater will be seven degrees colder than the ambient temperature at Crib Point and contain residual chlorine. Small drifting marine life such as plankton, fish eggs and larvae will be sucked into the heat exchange system and destroyed.

To date, AGL's technical reports do not offer certainty regarding the long-term ecosystem effects of this loss of marine life and the discharge of cold, chlorinated water into Western Port. Other potential impacts have been addressed inadequately or omitted completely.

The other component of the project will be a pipeline to transfer the regasified LNG from Crib point to Pakenham, where it will join the existing natural gas network. This pipeline will disrupt productive farmland.

Apart from ecosystem and farming impacts, the local community around Crib Point is concerned about the safety of locating a large gas terminal and pipeline so close to residential and bushfire-prone areas. The impact on our climate is also worrying, since AGL will be importing gas that may well have been produced in Australia before being liquified, transported overseas, transported back to Australia, and then regasified.

PICS is working with other local, Victorian and national environmental organisations to raise awareness about AGL's gas terminal plans and demand a full environmental assessment process. Unfortunately, this is not guaranteed.

If you are concerned about this project, you can help by writing to Victorian planning minister Richard Wynne to demand a full Environmental Effects Statement: PO Box 1474 Collingwood VIC 3066, email [richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au).

Information on AGL's gas import terminal plan is online at [www.agl.com.au/about-agl/how-we-source-energy/crib-point-project](http://www.agl.com.au/about-agl/how-we-source-energy/crib-point-project). For information on community concerns about this project, visit community group Save Western Port at [savewesternport.org](http://savewesternport.org). *Jane Jobe*.



Example of a floating storage and regasification unit and liquid natural gas ship. Image: Höegh LNG.

# Have you heard of PLOGGING?

## A different role for PICS

PICS was recently approached via message on our Facebook page by a year 7 student from Newhaven College who is working towards her “Compass Award”. The award has various components including volunteering and taking up a new hobby. The student had done some research on how to combine her passion for running and her interest in the environment and came up with the relatively new sport of Plogging. This originated in Scandinavia, and is a combination of jogging and picking up rubbish. Our student needed to do 3 hours of volunteering and asked if PICS could sign off on her doing 3 hours of Plogging on Phillip Island’s beaches. We suggested that she keep a photographic record of the rubbish she collected, make a brief analysis of the type of rubbish, and keep a log of her time spent Plogging. She agreed that if we kept her anonymous we could post her progress on the Facebook page. The first post went viral with over 4,000 views and many comments. Some people said – “We’ve been doing that for ages and now we have a name for it!” Some people were delighted that a young person was doing such a good project. News of the post spread somehow to the ABC and PICS was contacted by ABC Gippsland radio as they wanted to interview the Plogger. We sent a message to her mum and after some debate they decided to go ahead with the radio interview. The interview went extremely well, with the student handling it like a real professional and being very articulate. This added another dimension to her project. Further to that, the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser newspaper, which often checks on our Facebook page for news items, picked up on this and featured the student (as anonymous) in a recent edition, which added yet another dimension to the project.

The student completed her three hours Plogging and I signed off with some positive comments in her workbook and gave her a certificate of congratulations from PICS. The student thought hard about what new hobby she would like to take up and once again went to the PICS Facebook page, where she found a post in the last few months which featured a link to a printable pdf of a bird-identifying book for Melbourne. Many of the birds featured in the pdf are also found on Phillip Island. She decided to take up birdwatching, and has a map from PICS featuring good birdwatching sites on the island. PICS will sign off on this project for her too. I met her and her mum, who has supported her so much with these projects, recently at the Cowes museum and was very impressed by her strength of purpose. The environment will be in good hands if this student and her friends have anything to do with it! *Christine Grayden.*



## ***The Penguin Newsletter***

September 2018

If undeliverable, return to:

PICS Inc.

PO Box 548

COWES, 3922

### ***Come Join the Parade!***

It may be ironic that PICS is joining in the celebration of 150 years since the closer settlement of Phillip Island. Why would we celebrate subdivision of the island? Not only did this mean the final dispossession of the Bunurong/Boonwurrung people, but it also meant the further Europeanisation of the island's environment. The McHaffies had leased the island from 1842. John McHaffie was a member of the powerful Victorian Acclimatisation Society and imported a number of foreign species here including hares and deer. But the VAS was also promoting native species – for hunting and eating. A VAS dinner for which McHaffie was to provide the food, featured several species that are no longer here, such as small marsupials.

If we look at the options for Phillip Island in 1868 – the year of the first ballot for closer settlement – it gives us some understanding of how bad things COULD have been on Phillip Island. Two powerful lobbies existed beside the lobby for closer settlement. One wanted the island to be a military and naval base. Imagine how things would be now if that had held sway: dredged harbour, naval vessels coming and going, fighter jets training, etc, etc. The other lobby group was the VAS, whose members wanted the island left as it was in McHaffie's hands to introduce many more exotic species of plants, animals and birds. There was no option to create a national park out of the island in those days, with Australia's first national park not being declared until 1879.

As part of Phillip Island's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations a parade from the Cultural Centre to the foreshore will be held on Saturday 3 November starting at 11 a.m. from the Cultural Centre. PICS is having a banner created reading: "Phillip Island Conservation Society Established 1968" and featuring a number of Lisa Schonberg's beautiful photographs. ***We need people to carry the banner and march in the parade behind the banner for PICS. Will you volunteer?*** If you are interested, please contact the secretary, Christine Grayden m 0400 900 612 or email: [cdgrayden@gmail.com](mailto:cdgrayden@gmail.com)

