



“The Penguin” Newsletter

Editors: Christine Grayden, John Eddy
phillipislandconservation@gmail.com

Website: www.picsvictoria.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/picsvictoria

Newsletter: September 2019

Dates for Your Diary 2019

To be advised for Coastcare

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

Sunday 10th November - site maintenance

GENERAL MEETING: 2.00 p.m. Cowes Cultural Centre meeting room 1. Sunday 29 September. See poster for details

*PICS (in conjunction with Bass Coast
National Trust) presents:*
SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER FORUM:

Sunday October 20, 2 - 4.30 p.m.,
Parish Hall, Cowes.

Speakers, information, small group workshopping of
examples, nominations for significance assessment group.

All Welcome

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Saturday 11 January, 7.30 p.m. followed by supper and chat.

Enquiries: Christine Grayden, ph 0400 900 612 e 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

Other groups:

Friends of Koalas (FOK) Contact 0419552385 OR 0484921028.

Friends of Churchill Island (FOCIS): email: secretary@focis.org.au

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

Bass Coast Climate Action Network: Michael Nugent, 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

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 1st Sat of each month at Community Emmaus Room, Parish Hall Cowes.

**PHILLIP ISLAND
CONSERVATION SOCIETY
PRESENTS**



BLUE CARBON: A NEW WEAPON AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The new term 'blue carbon' describes the substantial and newly-recognised potential of the oceans (ie. mangrove forests, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows) to sequester carbon and help slow climate change.

Australia holds 5-11% of the earth's blue carbon, with annual sequestration offsetting ~5% of the nation's annual CO2 emissions. But what is the scale of the opportunity, where should we act, and how?

This talk will present on ten years of blue carbon research: where have we come from, and where are we going? It will look to the future of blue carbon science, policy frameworks, the business case for carbon financing, and how we can involve the broader community in the blue carbon journey.

**A/PROF
PETER MACREADIE**

A/Prof Macreadie is the director of Deakin University's Blue Carbon Lab. He has published >100 peer-reviewed papers and is the most published author on topic of 'Blue Carbon'. Macreadie currently serves on the Victorian Marine Coastal Council Science Panel.

**SEPT 29, 2019 | 2:00 PM
COWES CULTURAL CENTRE
COWES, VIC**

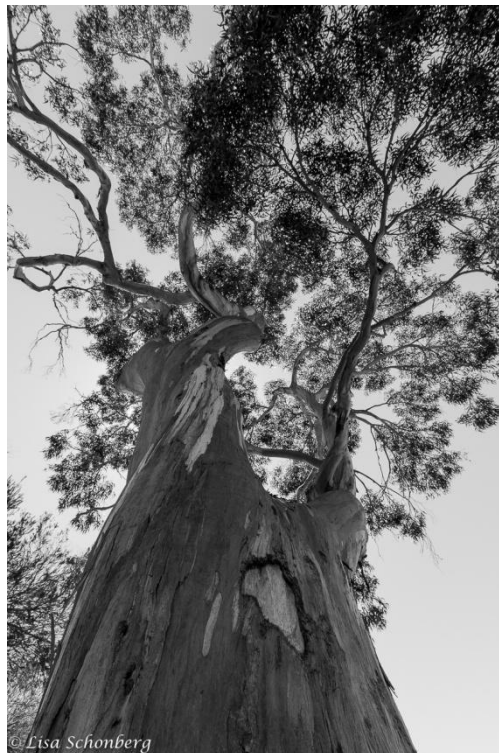
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - JEFF NOTTLE

With winter behind us I am sure we will all welcome the warmer weather. Whilst many of us have spent extra time indoors PICS has been running hot over winter with numerous projects. We have been busy with plantings at Scenic Estate Reserve and planning issues including preparing objections on a proposed caravan park on rural land at Forrest Caves and responding to the State Government initiative of declaring Bass Coast under the Distinctive Areas and Landscape legislation. PICS responded by nominating selected areas of distinction on the DELWP interactive map and the preparation of a detailed submission to DELWP. This was an excellent team effort that resulted in a comprehensive submission being lodged by PICS.

Committee members have been busy ensuring that our guiding principles and aspirations are included where possible in Council working groups including the Natural Environment Strategy and the Community Tourism Reference Group. We have also been active contributors to Phillip Island Nature Parks Community and Environment Advisory Committee and attended Port of Hastings Community Consultative Committee. PICS Committee members have also met with Ali Wastie as the new CEO for our Council and Jordan Crugnale MP with a view to further developing our working relationships. In keeping up to date on issues we have attended key forums including the Marine and Coastal forum and Coastcare strategy workshop.

We have responded to the Council review of Dogs on Beaches policy and maintained our view that saving our Hooded Plovers is a higher priority than having dogs off leash on beaches.

Trees have been a major focus of the local community and media and PICS has been leading the way for protection of trees on the Island. We have entered into a partnership with the National Trust and have commenced a significant project to prepare a Significant Trees and Vegetation Register for Phillip Island and Churchill Island. We have presented our project plans to Council and we have been most pleased with the positive response from Councilors and the community with offers of support and assistance. We are planning a PICS public forum on Sunday 20th October 2.00-4.30 p.m. at the Parish Hall in Cowes. It is looking like it will be well attended and supported. All members are encouraged to attend and invite your friends and family.



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"ALL HAIL THE MIGHTY LITTLE PENGUIN"

On Tuesday 20th August 2019 the Phillip Island Nature Parks invited all staff and volunteers to an afternoon of information on Little Penguins, Australian Fur Seals, feral cat research, other research and the Parks' Conservation Vision. PICS members and PINP volunteers John Eddy, Jan Fleming and Grazyna Mackiewicz attended and heard from the following speakers:

- Paula Wasiak, Research Technical Officer: "Penguin 101"
- Rebecca McIntosh PhD Marine Scientist: "Australian fur seal research update"
- Jessica McKelson Conservation Manager: "Our Conservation Vision - Beyond the Horizon. Integrating conservation action and strategy across our organisation."
- Frank Gigliotti Research Technical Officer: "Phillip Island (*Millowl*) Feral Cat Research Initiatives Working towards a feral cat free island"
- Lauren Tworowski PhD Student: "The effects of extreme ambient temperatures on survival of moulting Little Penguins"
- Harley Schinagl GIS Officer: "Spatial is special - How Nature Parks have embraced GIS"
- Ross Holmberg Research Technical Officer: "What does Research even do?"
- Peter Dann PhD Research Director: "Long-term studies of the survival of adult and first-year penguins at Phillip Island".

The event was held in the comfortable new theatre at the new Penguin Parade building. All PICS members got a great deal from the afternoon and thanked PINP for the opportunity to hear about some of the research being carried on by the Research Department, which punches well above its weight in terms of breadth, depth and output. We look forward to more updates from PINP's world-renowned Research Department.

Photo by Lisa Schonberg shows Australian fur seals at Seal Rocks



PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 14.7.2019

Welcome and acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples.

PRESENT: As per attendance book

APOLOGIES: As per attendance book

The meeting was preceded by a Power Point talk given by Geoff Glare, wildlife and botanical photographer, who has been on over 40 open water boat trips to take photos of seabirds and cetaceans. Geoff's photos were divided into species' groups - first seabirds and then cetaceans and he was able to give information and insights about the birds and cetaceans during the presentation. Christine Grayden gave the vote of thanks, saying that in her younger life she had found many rare beachwashed dead seabirds and taken them to Museums Victoria for identification. She appreciated being able to see the birds in their natural habitat in Geoff's photos.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday 14.4.2019 Margaret Hancock/Pauline Taylor. Carried.

Matters arising:

1. Race track noise issue - Phil has presented to Natural Environment Strategy committee meeting and BCSC will be working with EPA on the issue.
2. Pleasant Point revegetation project - second community planting to be held today cancelled due to bad weather and slippery conditions. Plants are on site and will go in during the coming week with the help of a roster of volunteers over several days.
3. Cruise ships: Shane Vedamuttu, POH harbour captain informed us that all relevant agencies had a meeting recently and he will let us know of outcomes.
4. Distinctive Areas and Landscapes: First of three rounds of community drop-in sessions to be held Thur 25 July, 5.30-7.30 Cowes Cultural Centre. All encouraged to attend and have input. Best chance to stop over-development that we have ever had. Online consultation and an interactive map is available here:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bass-coast>

South Gippsland Conservation Society have contacted us. They are seeking a non-public meeting with the DELWP DAL team and asked if we wanted to make it a joint meeting. Members felt that would be a good idea.

Reports:

1. FOSER report – John Eddy

Volunteers recently planted 120 plants on the difficult compacted area of the former car park. This was planted previously but saw poor survival due to compacted soil. This time BCSC has holes pre-dug through the compacted layer, so the plants should now be able to get their roots down. BCSC also organised 5m³ of mulch for the volunteers to spread around the plants. Margaret Hancock suggested that we write to BCSC stating that although this particular project was small, it is a good example of co-operation between staff and community groups. Copy to councilors.

2. Pleasant Point Rhyll Coast Action project. This project has relied in large part on PICS members to achieve its outcomes. 500 plants went in last year, and 500 this year. PICS members have helped with all the preparation and preliminary planting. John thanked Ross, Sue, Bruno, Patsy, Maurice, Carmen and Karen for their help. Grazyna, Alison and Penny are also to help. John also thanked Jason McCracken, the new PINP vegetation officer, who he described as "switched on and great to work with".

3. Planning – C151 accepted by minister and to go into planning scheme; Caravan/camping park at Forrest Caves proposal: developer has asked to withdraw from Sep VCAT hearing to prepare new plans to be advertised. PICS signed withdrawal permission along with most other parties.

4. Jeff Nottle (president) reported on the Significant Tree Register. He and Greg Buchanan of Bass Coast National Trust gave a presentation to council at the BCSC Community Connections session recently. This went well. A public forum is proposed. This will be scoped with councillors. We are doing a lot of council's work on this. The plan is to present a final report to council by March 2020. The next step is to meet with interested councillors re holding the public forum in Oct/Nov. Jane Jobe is currently away, but will pick this up upon her return.

Anne Davie/Margaret Hancock: "That expenses related to the Significant Tree Register be paid for from the Public Fund." Carried.

5. Wildlife Road Kills: Ron Day reported that so far this year there have been 161 kills along 3.6 kms of Rhyll-Cowes Rd, including one echidna in June. Fatalities have tapered off markedly in June-July. Ron directed members to the Wildlife Victoria website <https://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/> They have an App with which you can report an incident, upload a photo and the GPS information goes to WV. Ron is waiting for a meeting of interested authorities to be organised.

Treasurer's report: The report from 1.4.19-30.6.19 was presented. Christine Grayden/Pauline Taylor. Carried.

Correspondence dealt by committee at recent c/ee meeting. Correspondence list available to view.

General Business:

1. PICS has received a BCSC community grant of \$700 to renew our website. Steve Angel and Christine are working on content and Steve is finding a Wordpress developer for us to use.

2. Blue Gum Reserve master plan comments close Aug 4. ACTION: PICS to write to BCSC stating that we approve of the plan, but that we hope some formal arrangement can be made with residents who back onto the reserve and are asking to continue having vehicular access through the reserve to their properties due to no access from Walton Street.

3. Totally Renewable Phillip Island day Sunday Sep 8. This will be a debrief day. Anne Davie and Christine Grayden will have a PICS information and membership table there, including a display of photos of our hands-on volunteer work such as FOSER and RRCC, and photos of PWP. Can be printed at BigW for 33c each.

4. Climate change emergency BCSC petition available to sign

5. Coastal and Marine Policy public session Tues 21 July 5-7. This is not actually an information session; they are seeking feedback so you would have to be familiar with the Policy draft. Need to book in.

6. Jeff, Penny Manning and Pauline Taylor will meet with Jordan Crugnale, member for Bass and discuss issues of importance to PICS such as the vehicular ferry, the Significant Tree Register and the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes process.

The next general meeting will be on Sunday 29 September, 2p.m. when our speaker will be Dr Peter Macreadie, Deakin University, on Blue Carbon.

TOTALLY RENEWABLE PHILLIP ISLAND
A YEAR OF PLANNING FOR A DECADE OF ACTION
OPEN DAY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH 2019

Many PICS members attended this excellent day recently, where information tables, electric vehicles, alternative energy information and the world's first carbon inset auction took place. PICS was there with our brochures and a folder of beautiful photos featuring our main hands-on project, Scenic Estate Reserve. We shared our table with PICS member Carmen Bush who has a petition to the Legislative Assembly asking for a town bus to go around the island's townships and stay on the island, not go off to Wonthaggi as the current bus does. Carmen received 130 signatures!



Christine and Carmen TRPI PICS table

Anne and Bob Davie were there with a "Bimbadeen" table next to PICS, and were busy with people's questions about carbon insetting being done on their farm at Ventnor. Other tables in the foyer included Boomerang Bags, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre, Western Port Water, Bass Coast Shire waste services and Plastic Free Phillip Island and San Remo. Other information tables and solar installations were set up in the hall and were kept busy with hundreds of people coming through for the day.

In the afternoon a number of speakers spoke as follows:

- Tom Hallam, AusNet Services on their partnership with TRPI
- Isabel and Callum from Wonthaggi Secondary College on the future they would like to have
- Moragh Mackay on the emissions profile for Phillip Island and where local efforts to reduce emissions can have the greatest effect
- Phil Dressing on the opportunities for all parties to work together
- Susan Davies gave us the latest on Co-operative Power Australia, a new energy retailer working closely with Energy Innovation Co-op

TRPI Open Day continued...

- Bass Coast Shire waste manager Adam Johns- reduction of community based carbon emissions through diversion of organic waste from landfill
- Mary Whelan and Bryce Gaton spoke about the world of zero emissions transport
- Bhavani Rooks - capturing and storing greenhouse gases in revegetation and soils. In 10 years farmers and Landcare have planted enough trees to inset emissions from electricity use of 1000 homes. "Regenerative Agriculture" is the term now being used for the methods used at Bimbadeen.

Auctioneer Greg Price then took over the microphone for the world's first ever carbon inset auction, with 367 tonnes CO2 equivalent being donated for auction by Bimbadeen to provide start-up funds for TRPI. The results of the auction demonstrated the great enthusiasm of the big audience. They included:

- First tonne of inset ever auctioned in the world: \$800
- Car lot of emissions = 4 tonne - \$400
- Big Lifestyle = 46 tonne - \$800
- Theatre Pack (2 people) x 2 = 4 tonne each - \$110 each
 - Meat lovers - 2 tonne - \$100
 - Business emissions x 2 packs - 8 tonne - \$500 each pack
 - Frequent Flier pack - 6 tonne - \$500
 - Wood Fire Pack - 3 tonne - \$175
 - 1 tonne pack @ \$25 each - 16 packs sold.

Congratulations to TRPI for organising such a great event, and thanks to all the people who bought carbon insets. Now Bimbadeen will get busy growing more carbon inset plants!