



## Events

### General Meeting

Sunday 4 July at 2.00pm

Koala Conservation Centre meeting room

1810 Phillip Island Road, Phillip Island

Speaker: James Stirton, General Manager Place Making,  
Bass Coast Shire Council

Meeting to be held with consideration of Covid  
requirements.

Contact secretary for more information.

### Saltwater Creek Reserve Planting

With welcome support from Phillip Island Landcare Group.

Sunday 11 July at 9.30am. See Page 8 for details.



## June 2021

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### Contact us:

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## JEFF NOTTLE



### AGL – Saving and Protecting Westernport

A great win on AGL for the community and our environment. Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) made significant contributions over the last three and a half years to this outcome including; lobbying for an Environmental Effects Statement (EES), providing input into the draft scope of the EES, researching and lodging a submission to the Federal authorities for the inclusion of the Federal Environment laws in the EES scope, helping to establish local community groups

including the Save Westernport group, helping to establish the environmental alliance that includes the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), Environment Victoria, Save Westernport and the Westernport Protection Council, wrote media articles for the local press, lobbied our Councillors and our networks, asked probing questions at two AGL Annual General Meetings, presented to the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC), cross examined proponent witnesses at the IAC, and engaging Sea Shepherd and the wider local community.

[PICS Power point for IAC Inquiry.pdf](#)

Minister Wynne rejected the proposal as a result of potential damage to marine ecosystems as a result of chlorine discharge, lower water temperature and entrainment. This is an outcome that PICS argued strongly for in our submissions to the IAC.

As a result of Minister Wynne's decision, AGL withdrew their approval applications with the Federal Environment Minister and the EPA.

### The Need For Less Speed

The Phillip Island Transport Review is moving forward with the completion of Stage 1 of the Phillip Island Speed Review. PICS prepared a balanced response to Council with nine PICS members making contributions to our position. It is clear that all key PICS responses have been adopted by the various stakeholders and Council. I believe this outcome is an excellent outcome for PICS, the community and wildlife.

[PICS PI Speed Review submission.pdf](#)

PICS will be involved in Stage 2 as it examines speeds on minor roads, and formulates our recommendations on gateway signage. We believe the signage should be bold symbols depicting wildlife and a simple message to *Drive Carefully for Wildlife*. Key wildlife corridor roads should have dynamic speed signs, sunset to sunrise speed differentials and well-maintained roadsides to minimize grazing wildlife adjacent to roads. Temporary speed limits should operate during Shearwater migration season.

## Bay Under Threat - A Timeline:

- 1968 Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) formed to fight a proposed marina at Rhyll
- 1968 Canal development proposed for Ventnor. Plan dropped.
- 1993 Crib Point oil terminal proposed.
- 2010 Ferry terminal proposed for Cowes foreshore.
- 2013 Liberal State government announces Port of Hastings will become Australia's biggest container port.
- 2013 PICS establishes a working group Preserve Westernport to campaign against the port.
- 2018 Labour State Government proposes car ferry between Stony Point and Cowes
- 2021 State Government rejects AGL plan for Crib Point.
- 2021 AGL withdraws their approval request to the Federal Environment Minister for their floating gas terminal proposal in Westernport. Now every approval AGL sought is gone.



Photograph by Terry Melvin

## TOTALLY RENEWABLE PHILLIP ISLAND [TRPI] Anne Davie

Steve Feury [IT guru and former Island resident] gave a presentation on electric motor bikes at a recent committee meeting. Steve is hoping to have an event at the Phillip Island Motor Circuit in the near future. He has the support of Bank Australia, Destination Phillip Island, Victorian government, Australian Renewable Energy Agency [ARENA] and now has the support of TRPI.

The bikes can hit serious speeds in a short space of time. There would be Battery Charging Stations at the Circuit with test rides of the new electric motor bikes. Riders comment that they can now hear different sounds when they are on the bikes. The environmental benefits include of course the noise benefit.

Vin Fast at Lang Lang Proving Ground are making electric motor bikes. The next steps Steve says to enable the event are: to confirm interest in stakeholders, identify funding streams and complete business cases. A date for the event has not been finalised.

TRPI is putting together an Application for funding from DWELP's Gippsland Regional Climate Change Adaptation Grant Program. It will focus on Carbon Farming and Resilient Farming.

Totally renewable Phillip Island Bike paths to a carbon neutral 2030

TRPI is calling for a "Cycle Safe Network"

- 1 Cycle Safe Cowes to the Nobbies
- 2 Cycle Safe to schools
- 3 Cycle Safe Thompson Ave & Settlement Rd
- 4 Cycle Safe Phillip Island by connecting our existing paths

Contact the council and let them know we need better paths

ACTIVE TRANSPORT  
The obvious path forward

# Planning Report

Penny Manning

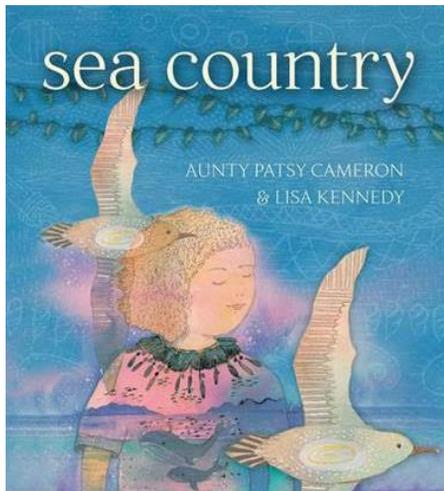
Terry Nott has represented PICS twice at VCAT recently. Firstly, at the hearing for the Holiday Motel at 349 – 357 Church Street, Cowes. The application for extensive development of the site was rejected as it was not considered that the motel had been continuously functioning as a motel. The more recent hearing was for the proposal at 164 – 188 Church Street, Cowes. This is the Cowes Foreshore Tourist Park where fully serviced glamping tents on the northern edge, among other changes, were proposed. VCAT has asked for more information (by June 11, 2021) from the proponent before making a decision. PICS has not received a copy of this information as yet.

The proponent for the Caravan Park at 1285 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven (Forrest Caves) has taken this application to VCAT and it is listed for a hearing in October, 2021. PICS is seeking someone to assist with PICS presentation at this hearing. A group of committee members is to meet soon to work on this.

The Bass Coast Shire Council will consider the application for an airstrip at Netherwood Lane, Bass on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. PICS is concerned about any potential impacts on Westernport from run off and from noise and bird disturbance, as this site is close to a Ramsar designated area. At the time of going to print the Council officers have recommended a Notice of Refusal for this proposal.

Please keep PICS informed of any planning issues that arise that are of concern.

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## Sea Country Book Launch

Aunty Patsy Cameron and Lisa Kennedy's new book *Sea Country* about shearwaters was launched last week. <https://www.magabala.com/products/sea-country-1>

In this children's picture book, Aunty Patsy Cameron generously shares the stories and traditions from her family's seasonal island life in Tasmania.

With evocative text and stunning illustrations by Lisa Kennedy, *Sea Country* lets the reader know when to pick ripe wild cherries, when the moon (mutton) birds fly home and how the nautilus shells smell like the deepest oceans.

Aunty Patsy Cameron, who is a descendant of the Pairebeenne Trawlwoolway clan in Tasmania, weaves a cultural homage to life on Flinders Island, with stories of collecting shells, fishing in wooden dinghies with long oars, and watching clouds snake their way down Mt Munro. Lisa Kennedy reveals the love and connection to sea and Country through her intricate collages and delicate illustrations that sing country alive.'

Lisa is a descendant of the coastal Pairebeenne/Trawlwoolway clan in North East Tasmania. She has always carried a deep love of Sea and Country and has been blessed to work alongside Aunty Patsy on *Sea Country*. Lisa finds her most meaningful work is to collaborate with Elders to visually express the often hidden voices of Ancestors and Country in a way that is accessible to many. Some of our members may know of Lisa Kennedy through her involvement with the Shearwater Festival on Phillip Island, Lisa and her family live in South Gippsland.

# Getting to Know Your Committee

Our Committee was asked to answer three questions. See how well you know your Committee. Can you identify the first three respondents?

Go to page 9 to see how well you have done!



June 5 Outside Committee Meeting Covid Style

## Profile #1



*Why do you enjoy conservation?*

Sharing my passion for plants and natural vegetation with others and the wonder of a healthy natural world.

*What is something little known about you?*

I have four middle names.

*What would you like to see on Phillip Island?*

More revegetation and a lot less weeds and more responsible gardening behaviour like timely deadheading, for example.

## Profile #2



*Why do you enjoy Conservation?*

I enjoy being involved with Conservation on Phillip Island because it is place of such beauty with a unique natural environment. For Penguins, Shearwaters, Australian fur seals etc it is their home. It is my wish that they will continue to be experienced and valued by the present and future generations.

*What is something little known about you ?*

I am a passionate supporter of Australian Rules Football and enjoy watching a game anytime. My grand-father was the first Captain of St Kilda and I am one of those Saints tragic supporters.

*What would you like to see happen on the Island?*

I want to see the names of many of the sites be known by their aboriginal name. In particular I want Phillip Island to be called Millowl.

## Profile #3



*Why do you enjoy Conservation?*

Do I enjoy Conservation? Not always if I am involved with controversial planning applications for PICS. I know that progress, if that is the word, is inevitable but I want to conserve as much of the existing Phillip Island as possible for future visitors and residents.

*What is something little known about you?*

I get pleasure from small things in the environment, a fungus, a wren, a shell or a pattern left in the sand by the receding tide.

*What would you like to see on Phillip Island.*

I would like to see stricter enforcement of the Bass Coast domestic animal laws and bylaws. I would like to see an off leash dog park that is planned and developed with appropriate facilities that caters for Island dogs and their owners into the future.

# The Meeting of Conservation, Science and Song

*Dr Laura Brearley*

The guest speaker at the Phillip Island Conservation Society's (PICS) last General Meeting was Dr Peter Dann, the Research Director of the Phillip Island Nature Parks. Peter has been working for over forty years in wildlife conservation, with a particular interest in seabirds and shorebirds, the ecology of islands and the conservation of threatened species. The topic of Peter's PICS presentation was 'Ten Remarkable Things about the Natural History of Phillip Island: A Personal List.' It was a compelling presentation, informative and from my perspective, also deeply emotional. Peter's commitment to conservation was clear, as was the sense of care that has underpinned his decades of work in the field.

One of his 'remarkable things' was the successful introduction of a population of Eastern Barred Bandicoots to Phillip Island (Millowl), now extinct in the wild on the mainland. After a successful trial release on Churchill Island, they were introduced to the Summerland Estate on Millowl. Their numbers are growing and the bandicoots are now doing so well, that they have also been released onto French Island. It was very poignant to hear the story of the resilience of the Eastern Barred Bandicoots, particularly in the context of their extinction elsewhere.



*Photograph by J J Harrison*



*Photograph by John O'Neill*

A sense of possibility and agency was also central to Peter's story of the buy-back of the Summerland Estate on Millowl, which has enabled the on-going restoration of the Little Penguins' habitat on the Peninsula. Each of Peter's stories was a living example of the importance of scientific research and the quality of care needed to undertake conservation work successfully.



*Photograph by J J Harrison*

There has been a rise of interest in recent years of the power of collaboration between scientists and artists. Its growing significance was featured in the February 2021 edition of the prestigious journal *Nature*<sup>1</sup> and also on Radio National's 'Science Show'<sup>2</sup> in April 2021. The article and the radio broadcast both made the point that scientists are increasingly seeking out artists to help them to communicate their work to new audiences. Research reveals that artists help scientists reach a broader audience and also make emotional connections that enhance learning.

In CSIRO's journal 'Frontiers in Marine Science'<sup>3</sup>, Shona K. Paterson et al published an article in 2020 entitled 'Examining the Potential of Art-Science Collaborations in the Anthropocene: A Case Study of Catching a Wave'. In it, they argue that people learn, understand and generate knowledge in different ways. They describe the strong connection between art and science, both of which share a common goal to understand and describe the world around us. They also contend that collaborations between scientists and artists evoke emotion and intuition and trigger stronger motivations for change. 'Art offers a way of creating a platform that allows different perspectives and different conversations to take place. This re-imagined space creates a strong opportunity to fully engage with issues.' they write. 'The multifaceted challenges of coastal and ocean sustainability cannot be addressed by science alone. There is an urgent need for new means of representation to convey the complexity of environmental change.'

In the last two weeks, we have been in another COVID lockdown in Victoria. Like many others, I had meetings and events cancelled. There was more space in my diary and in my life. In that spaciousness, the Muses arrived, circling over our house in Cape Woolamai and dropping in some new songs. Two of them are children's songs inspired by Peter's presentation, one about Eastern Barred Bandicoots and one about Little Penguins. Here are the links to the sound recordings:

<https://soundcloud.com/laura-brearley/boom-boom-bandicoot>

<https://soundcloud.com/laura-brearley/penguins-movin-in>

Over the coming months, I will be teaching the songs and telling the stories about the conservation work that inspired them. Children will sing them and learn about the efforts being made to save precious and endangered wildlife. The world they are inheriting needs stories like these.

At the PICS presentation, Peter told a series of engaging narratives. They were informative and more than that, they were inspiring. There are many reasons to feel discouraged at times in the conservation field. So much has been lost and continues to be threatened. It's easy to slip into a sense of despair in the light of current extinction rates, plastic ingestion in marine life and the devastating impacts of global warming. What we witnessed in Peter's presentation was his enduring sense of wonder and delight in the natural world. The conservation work that he and his colleagues undertake is vital in the deepest sense of that word.

**With thanks to Dr Peter Dann and his colleagues at the Phillip Island Nature Parks.**

**Thanks to conservationists, here, there and everywhere.**

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<sup>1</sup> EDITORIAL Nature 590, 528 (2021) 24 February 2021  
'Collaborations with Artists Go Beyond Communicating the Science'  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00469-2>

<sup>2</sup> Science Show - Radio National Broadcast: Saturday 10 April 2021: 12.05pm  
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/the-arts,-humanities-and-sciences-dance-together/13293340>

<sup>3</sup> Frontiers in Marine Science 19 May 2020: CSIRO, Australia  
'Examining the Potential of Art-Science Collaborations in the Anthropocene: A Case Study of Catching a Wave' *Shona K. Paterson, Martin Le Tissier, Hester Whyte, Lisa B. Robinson, Kristin Thielking, Mirill Ingram and John McCord*  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.00340/full>

# Volunteering Opportunities

All welcome! No special skills required - just your enthusiasm!

## Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve (FOSER) - Work Schedule for 2021

20 June	Planting Day (200 plants over 3 sites)
15 August	Pittosporum and Boxthorn control
26 September or 3 October	SER "Open Day" Inviting Public and Volunteers to walk the Reserve
7 or 14 November	Thistle control

All scheduled working bees are on Sundays, 10.00am to 12 noon, meeting at the Scenic Estate Reserve car park.

*\*COVID protocols still apply, even after Lockdown, so please bring your own gloves if you can, and snack and drinking water if you wish.*



FOSER 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday

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## Saltwater Creek Reserve Planting - with welcomed support from Phillip Island Landcare Group (PILG).

Some parking is available at the west end of Settlement Rd. Access provided by Aussie Golf Ranch, many thanks to Rohan Walker the proprietor. For those interested, special golf deals will be available for volunteers after the event.

Sunday 11 July at 9.30am with a cuppa and snack from the PILG CAMPER TRAILER. Planting begins at 10.00am followed by a free BBQ at lunchtime.

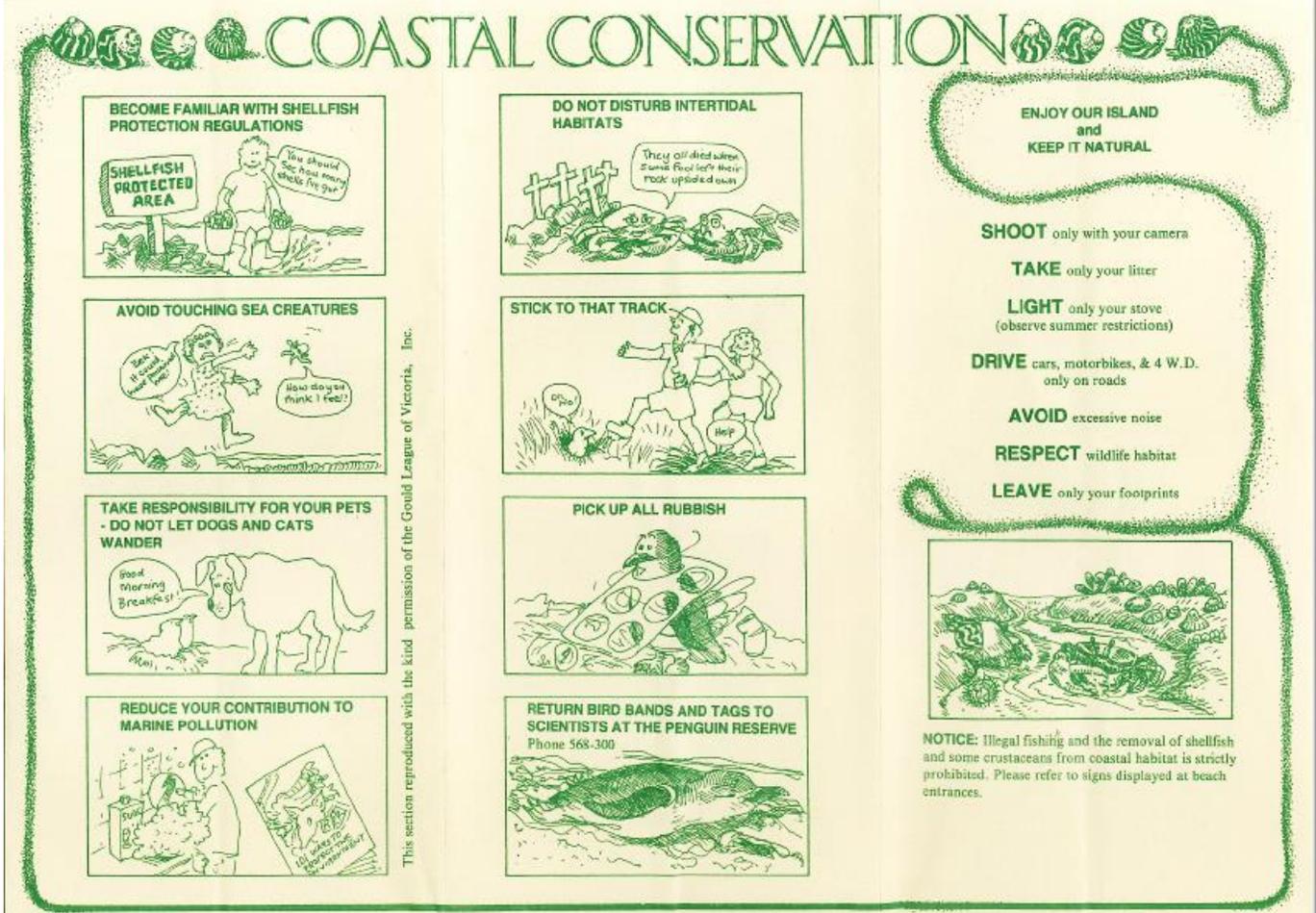
Please wear clothes appropriate for the weather and sturdy footwear!

RSVP: Carolyn Atherton on 0433 284 148 or E: [julyblitzpi@gmail.com](mailto:julyblitzpi@gmail.com)

*\*COVID protocols still apply, even after Lockdown, so please bring your own gloves and drinking water.*

# Blast From The Past

PICS member Terry Nott has unearthed a old Phillip Island Conservation pamphlet, which we believe was produced circa 1990 – 91. This is the fourth page and it is amazing how relevant this is some thirty years later! The cartoons come from the Gould League of Victoria and are acknowledged in the small print down the side of the first column of cartoons.



Quiz answers: Profile #1 Carmen Bush, Profile #2 Anne Davie, Profile #3 Penny Manning

## Committees

### SUB-COMMITTEE OF PICS

#### Red Rocks/Saltwater Creek Coastcare and Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve:

Co-ordinator is Meg Anderson, Ph: 0401 370 406

Email: [meganderson213@gmail.com](mailto:meganderson213@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 attractions including the Penguin Parade
- Receive "The Penguin" quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to exclusive presentations by expert speakers on planning, wildlife and 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>