



Photograph by Lisa Schonberg

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which we live and work. We pay respect to Community Elders and Respected Peoples of the past, present and future.

Events

General Meeting

Sunday 10 April 2022 at 2.00pm
St Phillips Anglican Hall
Cnr Thompson Ave and Church Street, Cowes
Covid requirements necessary.

Community Open Day 2022

Sunday 6 March 2022 from 10.00 am
Free entry to all four Phillip Island
Nature Parks attractions for local residents.
Bookings: penguins.org.au/buy-tickets
Come and chat with us at the PICS information stand
behind the Churchill Island Information Centre.

Scenic Estate Reserve

Sunday 27 March 2022 10.00am-12.00noon
Litter clean up around the reserve.

Sunday 24 April 2022 10.00am-12.00noon
Woody Weed control.

Sunday 19 June 2022 10.00am-12.00noon
Planting morning.

Red Rocks Rubbish Clean Up

Sunday 27 March 2022 10.00am–2.00 noon

See page 7 for further information on working bees.

March 2022

Contact us:

www.picsvictoria.org.au

[www.facebook.com/
picsvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/picsvictoria)

Email:
[phillipislandconservation@
gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandconservation@gmail.com)

Secretary:
Bruce Wilson
Ph: 0414 236 765

Mail:
PO Box 548, Cowes, 3922

ABN:
48 392 256 921

Incorp:
A0011396D

President's Report

JEFF NOTTLE



PICS commenced 2022 with a new Committee of 14 members. Margaret Hancock was appointed to the Committee and has remained a committee member since the inception of PICS in 1968. Margaret provides great wisdom to many of the challenges we face. Fortunately we are well placed to meet these challenges as we have an excellent PICS management team. We welcome Bruce Wilson and Michelle Maes to the team. Both bring a wealth of experience and a passion to support our conservation efforts. Josie's contribution and legacy to the running of the PICS was outstanding, transformational and will be long lasting.

The importance of conservation has been highlighted this year by Summerlands and the Penguins being listed as a desirable destination by the New York Times. The CEO of Nature Parks has highlighted: *"This achievement was a community effort over many years and the Conservation Society continue to play a critical role in establishing Phillip Island as a sustainable visitor destination!"*

Current conservation projects that we are focused on include the Stony Point to Cowes car ferry feasibility study funded by the State, Rural tourism initiatives instigated by Council, striving to achieve Western Port protections from industrialisation, further developing our most successful outdoor working group and a sense of excitement as our Arts Working Group is well placed to introduce innovative eco arts initiatives, capturing and archiving PICS history of achievements and responding to Council initiatives including the review of local laws, planning applications and the Council undertaking to form a dog working group to discuss current concerns and aspirations.

Welcome to the 2022 PICS Committee



Photograph by Lisa Schonberg

In the photo are most of the committee with members who are working on various areas. From left to right back: Yvonne Lynch (Member – Website Assistant), Josephine Kent (outgoing Secretary), Meg Anderson (Committee), Anne Hicks (Member – Newsletter publisher), Carmen Bush (Committee – Minutes Secretary), Bruce Wilson (Committee - Secretary), Anne Davie (Committee), Dr Laura Brearley (Committee), Michelle Maes (Committee) Front row: Jeff Nottle (Committee – President), Jane Jobe (Committee – Vice President), Margaret Hancock (Committee), Penny Manning (Committee). Absent: Matt Ingham (Committee - Treasurer), Phil Wright (Committee) and Terry Nott (Committee).

Car Ferry Version 2022

Jeff Nottle

Unfortunately the State Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions have provided funding of \$200K to conduct a feasibility study of the car ferry based on the 2018 business case. Council has accepted the funds and is in the process of appointing a consultant to conduct this new review. The timing is interesting and unfortunate as our community is still recovering from the pandemic and I believe the community appetite for marches and rallies during the pandemic are probably quite low. I believe it is entirely inappropriate for the State and Council to be foisting this study on the community at this time.

PICS has written to the State, Councilors' and our local member advising that PICS considers the business case is fundamentally flawed. Serious concerns raised by PICS and others include the unlikely viability of the car ferry, given very poor time-savings for the fare and unrealistic demand modeling; understatement of social costs, including loss of amenity on Phillip Island's northern shore; omission of key environmental risks, such as potential for coastal erosion triggered by construction of new marine infrastructure; and poorly substantiated overstatements of operating outcomes, economic and social benefits, and the benefit-cost ratio.

We will continue to advocate the point that a feasibility study based on a flawed business case, makes no sense particularly with an estimated up to \$100M needed for the infrastructure. So many other priorities exist to develop sustainable tourism without trying to squeeze some extra cars on the Island.

[Car Ferry PICS 2022 submission.pdf](#)

Protecting Western Port

Jeff Nottle

Following the completion of the successful AGL campaign PICS took a decision to seek more permanent protections for Western Port. We set about establishing an alliance of like minded parties and together we have formed an alliance that has been meeting regularly. The steering committee is made up of representatives from PICS, Save Westernport, Westernport Biosphere, Environment Victoria and the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) and the Bunurong Land Council.

We have been working to flesh out a document which gives clarity for our vision: *To effectively manage, restore, and legally protect the marine and coastal environment of Westernport Bay, and establish an environmentally sustainable economy for the future.*

We believe this vision is achievable by implementing a new plan or framework that brings together planning and management that recognise the natural values and economic prosperity of the ecosystems. Traditional Owners, community and agencies need to come together as equal partners – to develop the plan with an integrated and coordinated approach.

PICS will play a central role as we work towards a public launch on 29 March 2022 which is the anniversary date of Minister Wynne rejecting the AGL initiative.

Planning Report

Terry Nott

Proposed Museum and Café development, Churchill Road, Newhaven

PICS made a formal objection to this Planning Permit application. The matter has not yet gone before Council.

Proposed Newhaven Caravan Park

This VCAT hearing wound up on the 14th December 2021 after an additional day's hearing was called. Terry Nott, Phil Wright, Jane Jobe, Penny Manning and Jeff Nottle contributed and attended for all or part of the hearing. The VCAT panel advised that they will hand down their decision on the application in early 2022.

Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy Bass Coast Shire Council

PICS made a submission to the Bass Coast Shire Council. There is a lot in this Strategy that, if adopted, would potentially change parts of the Island forever and would restrict the expansion of Conservation Zones in the medium and long term future. On 16th February 2022 BCSC advised that PICS has been added to the register of interest for the project.

2 Shelly Court, Cowes Ending of 173 Agreement

PICS submitted an objection to BCSC. The owners have applied for the ending of the Section 173 Agreement which provides a 10m wide wildlife buffer zone at the south side of the Shearwater Estate. PICS has not received a reply from Council.

Removal of Trees in the Townships

Over recent times native vegetation, including large native trees, is being removed at an alarming rate in the townships of Phillip Island, even when the trees are healthy and there is a Vegetation Protection Overlay. Members have expressed a view that PICS should take action on this and start by making a formal objection to one such recent Planning Permit Application for the removal of large eucalypts on a property in Cowes that has a Vegetation Protection Overlay. PICS have lodged an objection outlining the importance of vegetation overlays.

Getting to Know Your Committee

Our Committee was asked to answer three questions. See how well you know your Committee. Can you identify the three respondents? Go to page 11 to see how well you have done!

Profile #1



Why do you enjoy Conservation?

Land clearing for unsustainable agriculture and urban development has contributed to global warming which threatens the planet, and continues to cause the extinction of native species. I enjoy being part of a community which is committed to saving this beautiful pocket of the world from the impact of development, for future generations.

What is something little known about you?

With recent events in Europe, I have been reflecting on a time in my youth when I travelled through the former USSR and eastern bloc, including Ukraine. In towns and cities across the USSR I visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, monuments to the many millions of Soviet soldiers who died in WW2. In Kyiv newly weds queued at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for their wedding photos, mourning and honouring the lost. I saw very few old men in Russia. Russian people never wanted to live through another war.

What would you like to see on Phillip Island?

I want to see the remaining natural environment protected from the impacts of over-development, and for Phillip Island to be promoted as a destination for eco-sensitive tourism. Generations of conservationists have fought to maintain the natural beauty of the Island, its beaches and the native flora and fauna, it's the reason we live here.

Profile #2



Why do you enjoy Conservation?

It enriches all of our lives to have some appreciation of the diversity of life, and of the interdependence of all of us who share this world

What is something little known about you ?

I'm from Perth originally and grew up loving the south west corner of Australia, particularly walking and climbing in the Porongorups and the Stirling Ranges.

What would you like to see on Phillip Island?

I'd like to see a walking path around the Island so that people could enjoy the Island's full diversity, and Distinctive Areas and Landscapes legislation applied so as to protect the Island's long-term sustainability.

Profile #3



Why do you enjoy Conservation?

It's easy to feel anxious because our natural environment is under constant assault. For me, conservation helps because I'm working to improve the situation with likeminded people. If I'm despondent, I look back at some of the great conservation battles that PICS and its friends have won over the decades and the thousands of people that made it happen.

What is something little known about you?

My connection with Phillip Island began when I met a certain Newhaven College student at a national science summer school at the tender age of 16. We moved here together in 1995, and I've been involved in local conservation efforts ever since.

What would you like to see on Phillip Island?

No expansion of town boundaries, rural land protected from subdivision and inappropriate development, better tree protection and increased vegetation cover, conservation reserves expanded and better connected, stronger environmental management and protection for Western Port, transport solutions that reduce dependence on private vehicles and enable safe cycling and hiking, and an environmentally sustainable economy that thrives on renewable energy.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI)

Anne Davie

Working together to be carbon neutral by 2030



Totally Renewable Phillip Island is pleased to announce the launch of our TRPI YouTube channel to share some of the amazing sessions recorded from the Sustainability Festival 'Reimagined' in late 2021. TRPI hosted over 25 events and was proud to contribute as a speaker at the launch of the Festival. As always, we are excited to share the amazing positive stories of how Phillip Island, the Waterline and broader Bass Coast communities are contributing to healthy communities in balance with and preserving our unique landscape.

Among the Festival sessions featured on the TRPI YouTube are updates on the Tracks and Trails strategy (new cycling and walking paths on the island); the rising uptake of Electric Vehicles and future smaller more efficient modes of transport; the Island Bush Care program in collaboration with Phillip Island Landcare Group to increase revegetation on the island while also allowing people to reduce their own carbon emission footprint; and Housing and Community of the future looking at more inclusive and considered developments catering to the needs of the community rather than speculative development alone. Link to TRPI YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSyd5jLgwJYhsVKpRSBeT2Q>

With last year's adoption of the Bass Coast 'Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030' we now have strong support to allow organisations such as TRPI to create clear

pathways and goals to meet our Climate Change targets and plan for the future we would like to see. As we know, TRPI is a movement of like minded groups and individuals committed to working together and achieving our goals, supporting and collaborating on joint areas to achieve what is needed – change.

It's through working together and finding big and small opportunities to 'do better' that we will continue to create momentum and significant positive change. We are currently on the threshold of some exciting breakthroughs thanks to the hard work of all our member groups, the support of the Shire, and the enthusiasm and passion of our community.

We look forward to continue working alongside Phillip Island Conservation Society in 2022 and beyond on our collective pathway to carbon neutral by 2030 with additional focus on restorative, regenerative, and collaborative action.

February 2022 update prepared by Zoë Geyer, TRPI Co-ordinator

Mobile 0422 580 921

Email zoegeyer@zga.com.au or totally.renewable.phillip.island@gmail.com

Outdoor Working Group Report - December – February 2022

We thank all our volunteers for their continued support and contribution to conservation on Phillip Island, and we look forward to welcoming back those volunteers who were unable to join us over the last 2 years.

For more information on volunteering activities and the work of the Outdoor Working Group, please contact PICS' Volunteer Coordinator Meg Anderson at meganderson213@gmail.com

What's been happening at SCENIC ESTATE RESERVE?

Our wonderful FOSER volunteers have been active in removing weeds over summer, with 2 working bees to tackle the annoyingly persistent gorse, thistles, and stinkwort.

In December, an enthusiastic volunteer from Monash University, Isabelle, kindly assisted us with the removal of very prickly and large gorse and thistles plants along the service road on the southern boundary of the reserve. (That weekend Isabelle, also helped me remove many large bags of flowering thistles and gorse from Grossard Point, Ventnor).



Isabelle with thistles



Isabelle at Grossard after weeding



Isabelle with Carmen at SER 15 December 2021

Our first working bee for this year was in February, when a small but enthusiastic team of 8 volunteers continued removing weeds mainly in the SW corner and central west sections of the reserve.

Many thanks to John Eddy for continuing to organise the tools and other equipment needed for working bees.



Ineke and Ross



Karen and Carmen



Weeding group 20 February 2022



Ross and Brandan

Upcoming working bee dates for your diary (all on Sundays 10am - 12 noon):

27 March: (note change of date) for litter clean up around the reserve

24 April: Woody Weed control

19 June: Planting morning

Meg Anderson

PICS Outdoor Working Group

What's been happening at RED ROCKS SALTWATER CREEK?

The first event for Red Rocks Saltwater Creek Coastcare (RRSWCC) for 2022 was held in mid-January with a rubbish clean-up morning along the Red Rocks foreshore, behind the dune and car park/picnic area. This was well attended with over 20 volunteers pulling up their sleeves to collect all manner of litter, green waste (sadly) and some garden escapees. It provided a wonderful opportunity for people to reconnect while improving their natural surroundings. Thanks again to John Eddy for supplying bags and gloves and those who brought yet another tasty post-work morning tea, especially Heather & Luke who are proving themselves as exemplary unofficial caterers for our group!

Our next event will be a weeding day on **Sunday 27 March** 10 am - 12 noon - location TBA. If you are not on the mailing list for RRSWCC please email Nick at snickers162@gmail.com

Nick Stephens

Coordinator RRSWCC



Red Rocks clean up team at morning tea



Red Rocks litter collection

Arts Working Group

Dr Laura Brearley, Jeff Nottle, Anne Davie (OAM)

Bass Coast EcoArts Initiatives

Constructive conversations continue with senior staff of the Bass Coast Shire Council about EcoArts Initiatives in the region designed to:

- 1) Raise awareness about protecting and preserving the natural environment;
- 2) Attract more international, interstate and intrastate visitors to the region; and
- 3) Enrich the creative, socio-economic and cultural fabric of the local community.

Potential initiatives include a coordinated program of Arts Residencies and associated conservation-focussed events and activities. Visitors would be exposed to a number of EcoArts experiences, including workshops, concerts and exhibitions and engaging with artists, wildlife and conservation experts and First Nation community members.

Arts and Culture Team Leader, David Burrows, has asked for a proposal to stage a Community Concert at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre in October 2022. The EcoArts Concert called 'Loving the Living World' will feature songs, stories, films and dance from children, conservationists, musicians and First Nation Elders and performers. Its purpose is to bring the community together to celebrate the importance of caring for Country and to deepen our relationship with the Living World. Negotiations are underway to finalise the date and budget of the Concert.

Kids Teaching Kids

Alycia James coordinates the Kids Teaching Kids Program at Newhaven College and is interested in having the students participate in the 'Loving the Living World' EcoArts Concert. The Kids Teaching Kids Program is auspiced by the Earth Institute and mentoring from community members is a key part of the Program methodology.

Here's a summary from their website ...

'The Kids Teaching Kids Program' promotes positive wellbeing and helps build resilience in young people. It raises awareness and drives action on local and global environmental issues, bringing communities together to solve common challenges and help the next generation of leaders who will take collective responsibility for our future. We aim to:

- Increase environmental literacy
- Create connections within communities
- Drive on-ground environmental projects
- Encourage engagement in STEM

The Kids Teaching Kids journey is broken down into four stages. Mentors are typically involved in Stage 2 – Creating Connections, but they can become involved at any (or all) stages.

1. **Breaking Down the Problem:** This research phase that encourages critical reflection and systematic thinking.
2. **Creating Connections:** Students connect with an 'expert' mentor to provide real world context to their learning.
3. **Taking Action:** Students are the driving force for change within their school and community. Students consider practical everyday actions they can complete.
4. **Becoming Leaders:** Students come together at Kids Teaching Kids events to share knowledge learnt on their journey.

The Victorian Distinctive Areas and Landscapes program aims to engage schools and the community in protection of the environmentally and culturally significant spaces 'at their front door'. Funded by the Victorian Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Capital Grants Program, Kids Teaching Kids is working with local environmental stakeholders to provide teachers and students with immersive teaching and learning opportunities in four distinct areas: Macedon Ranges, Bass Coast, Surf Coast and Bellarine Peninsula.

<https://www.earthwatch.org.au/listing/category/kids-teaching-kids>

The next Kids Teaching Kids Conference in Bass Coast is being held on 1st April 2022.

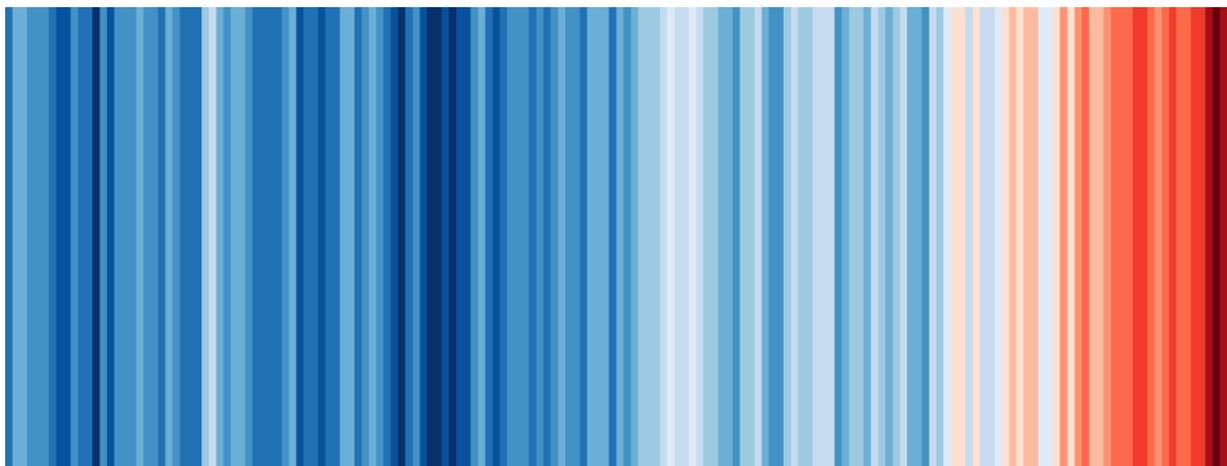
New Western Port Woodlands Film

Using footage from Google Earth maps from the past 15 years, Mick Green of Drift Media has made a new film about the impact of sand mining on the woodland corridor between Nyora and Grantville.

<https://vimeo.com/668072545/958a13a6b7>

Climate in Arts and History: Promoting Climate Literacy across Disciplines

The primary goal of the Climate in Arts and History project is to help and encourage K-12 teachers to incorporate information about climate change in classrooms outside STEM disciplines.



Ed Hawkins' 'Warming Stripes' shows global warming from 1850 to 2018

<https://www.science.smith.edu/climatelit/warming-stripes/>

PICS Archive Project

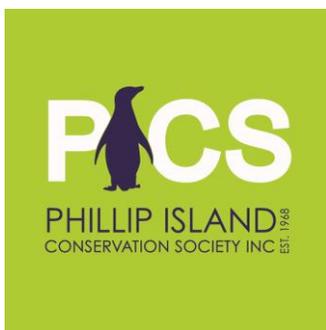
Christine Grayden

PICS has commenced an important project to digitise its collection of 50 scrap books containing newspaper cuttings about conservation and planning issues on Phillip Island, some dating back as far as 1910, but primarily from the 1960s onwards. There are 72 pages per scrapbook, and most of the books are full; often with several items per page. So, this is a long-term project.

Pictured is an example of one of the scrapbook pages, and the Project Co-ordinator Michelle Maes, from the PICS committee, with the new A3 scanner being used for the digitising. The scanner was funded by a Quick Response Grant from the Bass Coast Shire. Michelle is being assisted in this project by members Christine Grayden and Sharyn Cornthwaite. Christine is familiar with many of the scrapbooks, having used them as a valuable information source when writing the PICS history: "An Island worth conserving" (published 2008), which is available to view or download on the PICS website. Our thanks to Bass Coast Shire for enabling us to kickstart this project, which will see the digitised archive go online and be available for everyone.



Memberships



Memberships are now due for the year 2022. You will note that we have added another category, Gold Membership - \$200, which is a great way to show that you are dedicated to the cause and the vision of Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc. See page 12 for more information.

Quiz answers: Profile #1 Michelle Maes, Profile #2 Bruce Wilson, Profile #3 Jane Jobe

Committees

SUB-COMMITTEE OF PICS

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

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator - Meg Anderson,
Ph: 0401 370 406

Email: 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

Bird Life Bass Coast:

President: Gil Smith basscoast@birdlife.org.au

Secretary: Sue Woolley basscoast@birdlife.org.au

Bass Coast Climate Action Network:

Michael Nugent: BassCoastCAN@gmail.com

Ph: 0416 039 933

PICS COMMITTEE 2022

President: Jeff Nottle - Media enquiries –

Ph: 0419 158 232

Vice President: Jane Jobe

Secretary: Bruce Wilson Ph: 0414 236 765

Email: phillipislandconservation@gmail.com

Minutes Secretary: Carmen Bush

Treasurer: Matthew Ingham

Committee: Margaret Hancock (planning),
Dr Laura Brearley (Chair of c/ee meetings/planning),
Penny Manning, Terry Nott, Phil Wright,
Anne Davie, Meg Anderson, Michelle Maes.

The Committee meets at 10.00am 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

Gold Membership - \$200/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 Bruce Wilson,
Ph: 0414 236 765 or Email:
phillipislandconservation@gmail.com

PICS Facebook page is getting a lot of notice in 2022 and items can also be found on our website. Please join the other 3100 people who like our page.



<https://www.facebook.com/picsvictoria>