



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 2 October 2022 2pm-4pm
St Phillips Anglican Hall
Cnr Thompson Ave and Church Street, Cowes
Covid requirements necessary.

Scenic Estate Reserve

Sunday 21 August 2022 10am-12noon
Working Bee: Weeding - Gorse control.

Saturday 10 September 10am-12noon
Indigenous Planting around the Dance Circle.

Sunday 25 September 2022 10am-12noon
Annual Open Day
Invite public and volunteers to walk the reserve.

Red Rocks/Saltwater Creek

Sunday 24 July 2022 10am-12noon
Working Bee: Planting at Saltwater Creek.

July 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



I hear from PICS members and other people interested in making positive contributions to our environment that the change in Federal government is giving cause for greater optimism for the natural world. The incoming Government made an election commitment to providing a full response to the review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act that found the Act to be outdated and requiring fundamental reform. PICS made a submission to that review and we welcome a formal and comprehensive response from the Government.

PICS has been busy and are delighted about the outcome of key initiatives that include:

- Securing substantial Council funding to facilitate the 'For Our Future' Eco Arts events program;
- Local Laws Review that adopted key PICS' recommendations;
- Council commencing Urban Forest planning based on recommendations made by PICS;
- PICS' position on cat containment was adopted by Council;
- PICS questioning of the car ferry funding was effective;
- Involvement in establishing the Phillip Island Land Alliance PILA;
- A Western Port Protection Framework initiated by PICS is presented to Government;
- PICS obtains support for possible strategic land purchase on Phillip Island.

Unfortunately our submission on the Anderson St car park had no impact as Council posted tender and construction ready plans for community consultation. With no apparent intention to vary the plans PICS comments were not taken into consideration. PICS strongly indicated to Council that this engagement process was far from desirable and valuable community time and expertise was wasted in the process. [PICS Submission Anderson St](#)

Local Laws Review

Jeff Nottle

Council recently commenced the 10 yearly Local Laws Review. PICS provided input in the early stages of the review before the Council Draft Local Laws were made available for further comments by the community. PICS supported proposed tree protections where there are current gaps in protection offered by the planning scheme vegetation protection overlays. PICS supported the inclusion of "significant trees" that will require a permit before pruning or removal of any tree deemed significant.

PICS urged Council Local Laws to include permit requirements for works on the land beneath and surrounding the tree by establishing a Tree Protection Zone using a standard formula that includes the active root zone, where works such as excavation, construction and paving may impact the health of the tree.

These recommendations were included in the Draft Local Laws and we look forward to these laws being presented to Council for adoption.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI)

Working together to be carbon neutral by 2030



The last few months have been busy at Totally Renewable Phillip Island, with the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative projects underway. Both projects are state-funded by DELWP and are based at Phillip Island. They explore neighbourhood batteries as a vehicle for community energy sharing, increased social equity and access to locally-produced renewable energy.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island and Energy Innovation Co-operative are partnered with Mondo, supported by Bass Coast Shire Council, to lead an upcoming Tariff Trial using the Big Battery (PICISS). The Big Battery is currently under construction off-site, and will be commissioned later in 2022 at the Gap Rd site on the Island.

The Tariff Trail will recruit 100 Phillip Island locals to undertake a 12 month Tariff Trial looking at locally-produced household renewable energy in a community-benefit sharing model for social equity. The Tariff Trial participants will be involved in co-designing the Tariff Trial structure with the project partners. Who can participate? The Trial is open to people with houses on Phillip Island (owners, renters, holiday home-owners), people without solar panels as well as people with solar panels, and people from all walks of life – we're looking for diversity and to enhance social equity in the community's access to renewable energy.

Earlier this year TRPI conducted a community survey where over 95% of respondents said YES or MAYBE to consider donating their excess solar to

others in the community to increase social equity. Given the generosity shown by the community to date, we are very interested to see the results of the co-design process and outcomes of the Tariff Trial project.

The 100 participants in the Tariff Trial will be finalised in September, with the Tariff Trial to commence in April 2023 for a 12 month period. Totally Renewable Phillip Island invites anyone interested to send a brief message to totally.renewable.phillip.island@gmail.com or contact Zoe (TRPI Co-ordinator) on 0422 580 921. A Participant Information Guide will be sent out to those who express interest. Totally Renewable Phillip Island had a stall at the Island Whale Festival 1-3 July where they discussed the Tariff Trial and the participant's role in more detail.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island has a vision to be carbon neutral and 100% renewable by 2030. These Neighbourhood Battery Initiative projects are stepping stones to a thriving local renewable energy movement. This is an innovative project happening in the Bass Coast Shire, with the community actively engaged to have a say in how this model will develop through the region. We invite you to take part and welcome your involvement.

*June 2022 update prepared by Zoë Geyer,
TRPI Coordinator*

Mobile 0422 580 921

Email

totally.renewable.phillip.island@gmail.com

Phillip Island Land Alliance

Carmen Bush

PICS, Phillip Island Land Care Group, and all the Coast Care/Action Groups on Phillip Island form Phillip Island Land Alliance, (PILA).

PILA was launched on 12 May 2022 with the signing of nine Coast Care/Action Groups, PICS and Phillip Island Landcare Group. The idea arose from the PI Landcare July Blitz and suggested by David Rooks at the PI Landcare Coast Care Field Day - Saturday 27 November 2021.

“PI Landcare would like to work with all the PI Coast Care groups, perhaps have a meeting with some representatives to see what can be achieved together for the Island.” The Coast Care representatives who attended agreed it was a good idea.

The follow up Workshops were facilitated by Zoe Geyer who helped us work through the nitty gritty of what PILA could look like. No Incorporation is needed if PI Landcare Group agrees. Common interests and activities of the Coast Care groups, Landcare and PICS were noted and representatives were each given the opportunity to express what the Aims, Vision and Mission should be. Some of the agreed objectives are:

1. To come together with a unified voice and common objectives
2. To promote respect, care, and recognition of our unique natural environment by gathering, evaluating, and sharing information and education with stakeholders and the broader community.
3. To restore, regenerate and rewild the land to increase biodiversity and healthy ecosystems
4. To connect our member groups and increase membership and diversity, while also connecting with the broader community

At our inaugural “committee” meeting we decided to apply for funding to support our volunteers with Weed Identification Workshops which will develop a kit to use for monitoring purposes. We also discussed the need for a Bunurong Land Council Cultural Heritage Induction workshop to improve our understanding of where these areas might be and what to look for. Relevant grant applications will be made to meet these needs.



May 12th Launch of PILA.

PICS and the associated Coast Care and friends’ groups will benefit from these workshops and support from the Alliance through the sharing of information and experiences and the planned accumulation of resources.

Arts Working Group

Dr Laura Brearley

Funding Awarded for PICS Eco Arts and Cultural Collaborations Project 'For Our Future'

The Bass Coast Shire Council has awarded \$50,000 to The Eco Arts Cultural Hub of the Phillip Island Conservation Society to facilitate a program of Eco Arts Events in a project called 'For Our Future'.

The project will facilitate creative collaborations that are intercultural, interdisciplinary and intergenerational. The funding will support the development and delivery of a Program of Events with an environmental focus. Events will include Arts Residencies, Workshops, Deep Listening Circles, Concerts and Exhibitions.

'For Our Future' brings the Arts, Science and Culture together to foster environmental stewardship and to strengthen relationships across the community. Events will be commissioned through an Expression of Interest process and will invite engagement from artists, conservationists and First Nation community members. A series of short films will document the process and outcomes of the project over the coming year.

Members of the PICS Arts Working Group are now working with Greg Box, General Manager, Partnerships, Economy and Culture from BCSC to develop the detailed Project Plan and Agreement with the Council.

The letter of notification of the funds signed by Mayor Michael Whelan included the words:

"Council recognises the significant contribution the Phillip Island Conservation Society makes to all in our community through its connection to the delivery of creative arts and the promotion of a sustainable environment. The Society's proposal to provide support for a diverse range of cultural activities in the region would

bring together two key elements of the Bass Coast Vision, offering a unique platform for the expression of stories connecting the Environment and the Arts."

The Community Submission of 'For Our Future' concluded with the following words ... 'The evaluation of the project will provide evidence of the Bass Coast region's leadership in raising public awareness of environmental issues through Eco Arts initiatives within a Cultural Development Framework.

The project will strengthen Bass Coast's regional identity as a place of natural beauty, a vibrant Arts and Culture sector and a leader in conservation and environmental issues. The program of Eco Arts activities will bring people together through a shared love of place and a deeply felt desire to protect it for the future.

The *For Our Future* project will mirror back to the community what is articulated in the Community Vision 2041. The Community Vision invites our stories. That is what this project will provide.

Excerpt from Community Vision 2041

From its flowing hills
to its wild unspoiled coastlines,
the Bass Coast
is a source of celebration
for all who live in and visit the region ...

As we live respectfully
in harmony with our environment,
we prepare for future
challenges and changes.

Source:

<https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/strategies-and-policies/our-bass-coast-our-future#bass-coast-community-vision-2041>

Forthcoming Motions

The program administration and grant acquittal process will be resourced by the project and will not require ongoing support from the PICS Secretary and/or Treasurer.

As part of setting up the infrastructure to support the 'For Our Future' project, two motions were presented at the PICS Committee Meeting on 2nd July 2022.

1. That PICS contributes \$5000 from its Public Fund to support the 'For Our Future' project as part of the PICS/BCSC partnership.

2. That a separate bank account at the Bendigo Bank be opened for the 'For Our Future' project for book-keeping and acquittal purposes.

Fundraiser for the Save Western Port Woodlands Campaign

Aboriginal artist Lisa Kennedy is generously donating half of the proceeds of the sale of 27 of her original watercolour paintings to raise funds for the Save Western Port Woodlands campaign.

Lisa lives and works in Gippsland and has been an active contributor over many years to Eco Arts activities in the region.

Lisa Kennedy is descended from Woretemoeteryenna, daughter of Mannalargenna of the Pairrebeene/Trawlwoolway clan.

Lisa's Wurramatyenna Collection is part of the Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group NAIDOC Week 2022 Indigenous Art Exhibition being held at the Wonthaggi Artspace.

All artworks will be available for purchase from Wednesday 29th June onwards. You can see the artworks in a Virtual Exhibition from July 3rd at <https://www.naidoc-art.com.au/>

Here's a link to Terry's short film about Lisa Kennedy's Wurramatyenna Collection.

<https://youtu.be/8CtqSjZVVCY>

In Lisa's words ...

"To be able to support the campaign to Save Westernport Woodlands is absolutely wonderful. I can think of nothing better for this collection of artworks. All the paintings have been created along the coast in Gippsland on Bunurong and Gunaikurnai Country. They were painted where the woodlands meet the sea and where the coast connects across to Tasmania. On both sides of the sea, we are all looking after Country."

Strategic Land Purchase

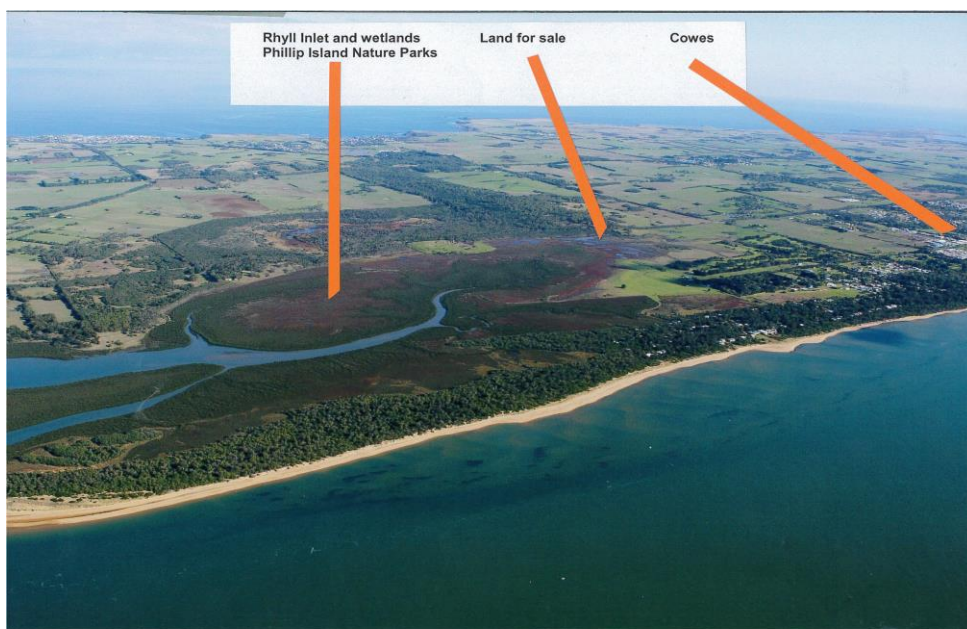
Jeff Nottle

PICS completed detailed research on the unique opportunity for the State to acquire 32Ha of strategically significant land on the Cowes Rhyll Rd on Phillip Island. PICS obtained support for the initiative from Nature Parks and has written to Jordan Crugnale MP urging quick action to secure the land.

[Strategic Land Jordan Crugnale MP letter](#)

PICS believe the acquisition would have similar net benefits to the entire community as did the acquisition of the Summerlands Peninsula by the Kerner Government in the 1980s.

We continue to advocate for this acquisition to our local member.



Urban Forest Strategy

Jeff Nottle

PICS are delighted that council have commenced a process to introduce an urban forest strategy. The origins of this process commenced when PICS presented to Council in 2019 at a community connections briefing on the importance of introducing an urban forest strategy. PICS urged Council to commence a conversation with our community about the need to maintain and improve our urban canopy. PICS advised Council that unless we plan for tree losses and have a strategy to maintain our urban forest, we are likely to go backwards. Further PICS advocated that improving our urban forest cover is an

Important response to the climate emergency, since trees have a very important role to play in storing and drawing-down carbon, cooling the microclimate during heatwaves, providing shade to mitigate the urban heat island effect, reducing energy use by shading and insulating buildings and intercepting water during heavy rain events to minimise flooding, etc.

Early engagement with Council consultants on this important strategy is positive and we look forward to the recommended strategy being formally presented to Council for adoption.

Cat Containment Policy

Jeff Nottle

PICS is most pleased that our representations to Council on the importance of a Cat Containment Policy in protecting both wildlife and cats has been introduced. The policy is the first for a Victorian Council and the recent Cat Containment Policy announcement was featured in local and mainstream Melbourne media.

PICS made a submission to Council as part of the Council review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2021-2025. [PICS Cat containment submission](#)

Based on research by the Cat Protection Society, RSPCA and the CSIRO we advised that a cat containment policy was important for the health of cats as well as wildlife. PICS advised Council “.. *the time has now come to extend the cat curfew to a 24/7 containment order, where cat owners must keep their cat on their property at all times, for the protection of their pet’s welfare*”.

We are pleased that Council listened and implemented the recommended policy.

[Council cat containment policy announcement](#)

Western Port Protections

Jeff Nottle

PICS involvement in establishing a Western Port alliance to seek more permanent protections for Western Port has resulted in a settled position now taken to Government.

Our vision is:

To effectively manage, restore, and legally protect the marine and coastal environment of Western Port and establish an environmentally sustainable economy for the future.

This vision will be achieved by preparing a new framework and strategic plan for Western Port that will recognise the natural values and economic prosperity of the ecosystems and the region.

Delivery of the protections will require a dedicated fund to deliver the plan via a group represented by traditional custodians, community and government agencies.

As a result of key stakeholder support obtained by PICS and recent representations to the Minister for Environment, we are quietly confident that the proposed Western Port Protection Framework will be adopted by the State Government prior to the next election.

Teaming Up to Tackle Rabbits on Phillip Island

Carmen Bush

Aaron Stephens (Invasive Species Coordinator BCLM) is teaming up with locals to reduce and hopefully eliminate rabbits on Phillip Island.

"It can be done if we all lend a hand", states Aaron when he talks about the strategy being used to eradicate rabbits to create rabbit free areas which will slowly widen to cover all of Phillip Island with the help of residents and landholders.

Rabbits are a most significant pest animal which create havoc in gardens and on farms: causing erosion, eating vegetation and encouraging weed infestations through their droppings. Rabbits can feed up to 30 metres away from their burrows and two rabbits can create 184 offspring within 18 months!

Aaron is offering help to rid your property of rabbits with a 50% subsidy on rabbit control works for landholders of Phillip Island.

What can be offered is:

Rural Properties – Cap of \$1000

- Fencing
- Fumigation
- Baiting
- Follow-up shooting

Urban Properties – Cap of \$500

- Fencing
- Fumigation
- Baiting (for properties larger than 1000sqm)

How this works is that BCLN will cover 50% of the cost and the landholder will cover the other 50% in either cash or in-kind hours. For example, If BCLN provide fencing materials/tools and the landholder completes the work, there will be little/no cost to the landholder.

For more information or to sign up feel free to contact Aaron as below:

Aaron Stephens
Invasive Species Coordinator
Bass Coast Landcare Network
Mobile: 0456390423 Office: (03) 5678 2335
Aaron.stephens@basscoastlandcare.org.au



Council Plans for Cowes to Ventnor Shared Track

Jeff Nottle

A narrow walking track from Cowes to Ventnor has previously been considered by PICS and Council around 8 years ago. It did not progress. Recently and quite surprisingly Council listed a shared track (cyclists and pedestrians) from Cowes to Ventnor through the foreshore reserve as a high priority for Council funding. PICS had three representatives walk sections of the proposed track with Cr Rooks and others.

PICS is opposed to an end to end shared track whilst PICS supports improvements in paths and tracks, improving community and nature connections, addressing weed infestations, informal tracks, erosion and encroachment as outlined in this submission. Read our submission here:

[PICS submission Cowes to Ventnor](#)

Outdoor Working Group Report

March - June 2022

Meg Anderson. Carmen Bush and Jane Jobe

The outdoor working group acknowledges and thanks the enormous contribution our enthusiastic volunteers make to the success of our working bees - many hands make light work!

What's been happening at Red Rocks/Saltwater Creek?

Since February, we have had two successful working bees at Red Rocks:

1. Sea spurge control:

In March, a small group of enthusiastic volunteers scoured the dunes north of Red Rocks, towards Cowes, to remove infestations of Sea Spurge, much of which was hidden amongst coastal shrubs and grasses and involved digging around on hands and knees! As usual this activity was followed by a welcome cuppa and cake at the Red Rocks car park picnic shelter!



Volunteers enjoying morning tea after the working bee

2. Planting working bee:

On the last Sunday in June, during a very fortunate and timely break in the rain, about 12 volunteers assisted Nick S. and John E. with the annual Red Rocks planting morning to infill plant in the sand dunes between Red Rocks Point and Penguin Point. Approximately 100 local indigenous plants (species : Coast Wattle, White Correa and Coast Daisy) were planted to fill in gaps in dunes using the 'Longstem Planting' method (deeper than usual). The sand was suitably damp from the morning's rain, making digging the holes much easier. As is the case with dune planting, 1 teaspoon of slow release fertilizer was placed in the plant holes to give the tubestock a growth boost.

A huge thank you once again goes to John Eddy for supplying the tools and for his careful planning and preparation for the day. John had prepared the plants well in advance by trimming off lower leaves and branches where possible to create a long stem

We finished just as the rain started again, and happily retired to the picnic shelter to enjoy a cuppa, cake, biscuits and a good chat, knowing that the plants were getting watered in!



RRSWC CC - Upcoming date for your diary:

Sunday 24 July: Planting at Saltwater Creek

Please contact the RRSWC Coast Care coordinator Nick Stephens at < snickers162@gmail.com > for more information on these activities and/or how to become a volunteer.

What's been happening at Scenic Estate Conservation Reserve?

Thanks to our trusty FOSER volunteers, we have run three successful working bees at the reserve since February.

1. Litter clean up:

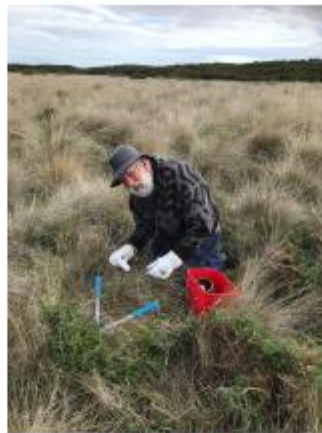
At the end of March, a very small band of volunteers worked hard as part of Clean Up Australia Day efforts, to remove many large bags of litter from the verge along the main tourist road on the southern boundary of the reserve.

2. Weed removal:

At our April working bee, we removed hundreds of weeds such as stinkwort, gorse and thistles, mainly from the south west corner of the reserve, close to the service road, but also in a patch under the power lines and near the wetland, in the central section of the reserve. While flower and seed heads were bagged and removed, the volunteers created huge piles of very prickly gorse branches to be collected by council or PI Nature Parks. We also collected bags of rubbish along the main road verge on our way back to the carpark. In addition to this, Jan F. and John A. are, on a daily basis, removing any other infestations or individual plants they find throughout the reserve plus bags of dog poo that have been, very disappointingly, thrown by one or more dog walkers into the bushes in certain areas.



Brandan Z., Karen E. and Carmen B. hard at work



John E. hard at work



Jan F. and John A. collected bags of Stinkwort and dog poo



Meg A., Carmen B. and Karen E. with one of our pile of gorse branches.



Merly and Lee



3. Annual Planting:

A most successful annual planting working bee took place on Sunday 19 June. We were fortunate that the perfect winter's morning - with fine sunny weather and no wind - enabled our small team of 10 to dig holes, plant and guard 210 plants to infill the plantings from previous working bees at two locations in about 90 minutes: 110 plants near the main entrance path plus another 100 plants at Picnic Flats. Plant species were: Boobialla, Hop Goodenia, Swamp Paperbark, Pattersonia (Long Purple flag), Poa, Juncus and Rounded Noon Flower.

A huge thank you goes to John A, John E, Ross L, Ken A, Greg J, Merly K, Lee H and Brandan Z. (PINP) who joined Jan F., Carmen B., and myself at the working bee. This was followed by morning tea at the Picnic flats picnic shelter which provided a lovely opportunity for us to have a chat over a cuppa and cake!

- Many thanks once again to John Eddy for organising the plants, tools and other equipment needed for the working bee. We also really appreciate the ongoing support of PI Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council.



Volunteers planting along the main entrance path



John Eddy and Carmen Bush at work



Volunteers planting at Picnic Flats

● Control of other weeds: PINP informed us that as part of a Coastcare Grant, a contractor slashed Paspalum in March to reduce biomass with a view to spraying re-growth. Quotes to spray other invasives such as Kikuyu and Spiny Rushes are being obtained

● We have some busy months ahead with planting still to be done at Saltwater Creek, so all existing and new volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend our working bees!

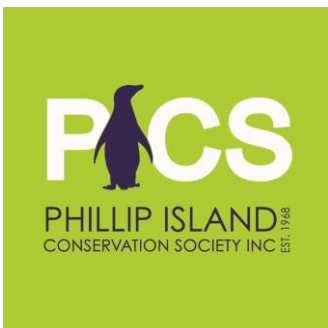
● FOSER - upcoming working bee dates for your diary:

Sunday 21 August: Weeding - Gorse control.

Saturday 10 September: Indigenous Planting around the Dance Circle!

Please contact the FOSER coordinator Jan Fleming at < janetjoyfleming1@gmail.com > for more information on joining FOSER and how to get involved in volunteering at Scenic Estate Reserve.

Memberships



A big thank you to the following members who have taken out our inaugural 2022 PICS Gold Memberships.

Christine and John Dever

Jan and Hugh Parkes

Ronnie Bauer

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 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

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>