

THE PENGUIN NEWSLETTER

PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY



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.

Presidents Report

PICS supports volunteers at Scenic Estate Reserve

PICS Committee would like to thank all our community volunteers who together and individually, truly are “change makers”. We are very fortunate to live in communities where “people care” for others and their environment.

It is volunteers that have contributed so much particularly to our natural world and protecting the environment.

However, it appears that hard working volunteers enhancing and maintaining Scenic Estate Reserve have been largely ignored by Council. A detailed report was prepared for the PICS committee outlining some concerns:

[📎 Report to PICS-CommitteeFeb23.pdf](#)

A summary of the volunteer’s contributions including more than 140 hours of documented work and a summary of the concerns was sent to the Mayor in February 2023. The letter also included a request to meet and discuss current concerns

[📎 Letter to Mayor seeking support](#)

With no response to the letter of 15 February follow up emails with the Mayor have resulted in no formal Council response. It has now been nearly 6 months since raising concerns and the invitation to meet and discuss.



Jeff Nottle, PICS president

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

Events:

GENERAL MEETING

Date: July 9 Time: 2-4 pm
St Philip’s Church Hall, Cowes.

Guest Speaker:
Mitch Burrows re his upcoming Millowl field guide

FOR OUR FUTURE

Intercultural and Eco Arts activities at the
[📎 Island Whale Festival](#)

Contact Us:

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Presidents Report continued

PICS are most disappointed and firmly believe our volunteers need to be supported and treated with respect. We know the wider community and our visitors appreciate all the efforts of our volunteers in maintaining Scenic Estate Reserve.

Council proposed Environment Management Fund

PICS are delighted to be invited by Council to be consulted as part of the development of the Bass Coast Shire Environment Management Fund. PICS have discussed this concept with Cr Whelan over the last few years and delighted to be involved in the development in the near future.

Originally intended to raise funds for purchase of environmentally important land I believe the scope may change to include other issues important to the environment. Sources of funding will be interesting as well as the legal entity that will manage the funds.

PICS submission on Recreational Native Bird Hunting Inquiry



PICS recently lodged a submission to the State Government Inquiry into native bird hunting. PICS supports call for a total ban on recreational duck hunting. PICS submission also covers the impact on threatened and non game species. PICS outlines concerns with long-term ecological impacts together with social and economic impacts.

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You can read the PICS submission in full at the link below:

[🔗 PICS Submission to State Govt re Native Bird Hunting](#)

Council fails on Freedom of Information

PICS lodged a Freedom of Information (FOI) request around 12 months ago and Council still have not processed the request. During this time PICS has followed up with Council on several occasions and lodged a formal complaint with the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC). The OVIC are well aware of the ongoing failure by Council to meet their statutory FOI obligations.

Council have simply advised that they are under resourced in this area and have insufficient staff that are able to process FOI requests. PICS are concerned that the lack of resourcing of FOI by Council significantly restricts the community in exercising democratic rights and understanding some of the Council decision making process



Diary Dates

General Meeting

Date: July 9

Time:

2-4 pm

St Philip's Church Hall

Cowes. Guest Speaker:

Mitch Burrows

'For Our Future'

Intercultural and Eco Arts activities at the Island Whale Festival
30 June - 2nd July

Outdoor Working Groups

We would love to see you at our working bees!

Working Bees are held monthly at Red Rocks /Saltwater Creek (RRSWC) and Scenic Estate Reserve (FOSER)

[See dates on Page 7](#)

PICS Arts Working Group Report

Dr Laura Brearley

Three 'For Our Future' activities were facilitated at the **Bass Coast Landcare Sustainability Festival** on Saturday 21st May.

- 'Eel Dreaming' with Uncle Steve Ulula Parker
- Lunchtime Community Concert with Laura Brearley and local musicians
- 'Celebrating Waterways' Eco Arts Workshop with Meg Humphrys.

Key words repeated most frequently in evaluations were -

.. *Creative, Inspired, Included, Connected*

The **Ocean Messages Workshop at Wonthaggi ArtsSpace** on 27th May was fully subscribed with 17 participants. Lead Artist Susan Hall facilitated mono-printing and stencil-making activities.

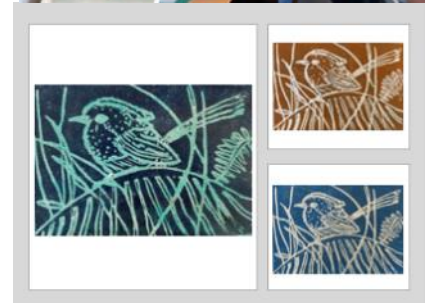
As part of 'For Our Future', the **Bass Coast Adult Learning Exploring Art Program** has welcomed in Special Guest artists Camille Monet, Susan Hall, Alisoun Neville, Helen Matthews, Aunty Sam Walker-Wilson (Yorta Yorta), Ronald Edwards Pepper (Gunaikurnai), Travis Wiltshire and Ursula Weinert to facilitate Eco Arts activities with NDIS participants and their carers.

On the 10th June, the '**For Our Future' Library Exhibition** was opened at the Wonthaggi Library by Catherine Watson and Kay Setches OAM, the Project Patron. The Exhibition features twelve community stories with an environmental focus. Aunty Sonia Weston performed the Welcome to Country.



Island Whale Festival

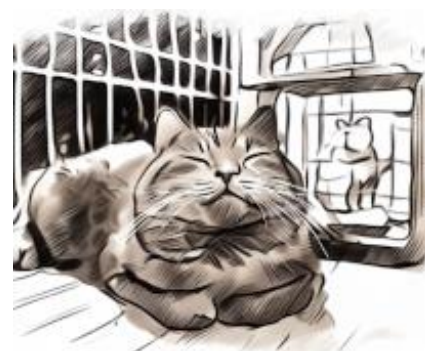
Preparations are well underway for the 'For Our Future' project to facilitate a series of intercultural and Eco Arts activities at the [Island Whale Festival](#) 30th June – 2nd July.



Bass Coast Cat Containment

From 1 July 2023 all cats in Bass Coast Shire need to be contained to their owners' property at all times. Animal welfare agencies agree that this is in the best interest of these much-loved pets, as well as critical to protecting wildlife. It has been shown that cats live a longer, happier life when contained 24/7.

PICS is represented on the Bass Coast Cat Containment Group which has met twice to provide input to the shire on the introduction of this new policy.



Initiatives include:

- Pop-up information booths to educate the community, for example at the Sustainability Festival.
- Purchase of additional traps.
- Scoping a cat de-sex program which would be funded through grant applications.
- Funding for additional Community Safety Officers who will provide information sessions to the public.
- Inverloch Men's Shed are constructing cat enclosures which will sell for \$300 to Bass Coast residents.
- A Bass Coast community competition is being held for the best designed cat enclosure. For further Information please contact Bass Coast Shire or go to Cat Containment | Bass Coast Shire

Michelle Maes

Phillip Island Land Alliance (PILA)

PILA recently held its 3 monthly meeting where the final Terms of Reference and the Website update were on the agenda. The Website was made public May 15 th

<https://www.phillipislandlandalliance.org.au/>

PILA, with the assistance of Bass Coast Council Funding, has organized a Bunurong Cultural Heritage Workshop for Thursday 13 July from 10-2pm on the Esplanade (near Seaspray Ave) Cape Woolamai.

PICS Committee and members are welcome to attend this event.

RSVP: Prue padamson58@gmail.com

Anne Davie

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI)

The Community Battery (PICESS) in Gap Road was launched by the Minister for Energy (Lily D'Ambrosia) on Saturday June 3rd . PICS was formally recognized by TRPI in the Launch presentation.

Anne Davie



**Member Groups & Organisations
for a Carbon Neutral 2030**

Logos shown include: NEWHAVEN COLLEGE, PICS PHILLIP ISLAND COMMUNITY BATTERY, Phillip Island Landcare Group, PLASTIC FREE PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO, PICAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ARTISTS' SOCIETY OF PHILLIP ISLAND INC., national warrnambool museum, DESTINATION PHILLIP ISLAND, BASS COAST, Phillip Island NATURE PARKS, WESTERNPORT WATER, Wildlife Coast cruises, Bimbadeen Phillip Island, BOOMERANG TOURS & CRUISES, Jobe Design, energy innovation CO-OPERATIVE.

**Working together
TRPI Core Group
& Clean Energy group**

**TRPI is a movement of like minded individuals
& groups committed to working together,
supporting and collaborating on joint areas
to achieve what is needed ... change**

Outdoor Working Group Report June 2023

Meg Anderson, volunteer coordinator

Red Rocks / Saltwater Creek Coastcare (RSWC)

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve (FOSER)

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who have already contributed more than 116 volunteer hours at working bees so far this year - you are certainly making a positive difference to our beautiful natural environment on the island! We are also grateful to John Eddy for organizing the tools and other equipment for working bees.

What's been happening at Scenic Estate Reserve?

Coordinator: Jan Fleming

FOSER'S annual woody weed Working Bee on 7 May was well attended with 10 volunteers braving the initial cold and wet start. Many thanks to Viva, Chris, Merly, Karen, John E, John A, Jan, Carmen and Meg who worked in 3 teams to remove the regrowth of *Melaleuca armillaris* (Bracelet Honey Myrtle), gorse in flower and a new infestation of thistles near the entrance, stinkwort under the power lines and along the service road and bridal creeper along the main north/south path. One group continued tidying up and carefully pruning the damaged branches along the main east/west paths.

The FOSEER team is disheartened to see the lasting impact caused by Council's careless slashing along the paths back in January and are disappointed that volunteers' valuable time is taken up with repairing this type of damage when our time would be much better spent removing weeds which keep springing up. We sincerely hope that this type of damage doesn't occur in the future! As seen in photo below, we trialed our new black and red trolleys which made the task of carting heavy tools and bags of weeds much easier!



Piles of chopped bracelet honey myrtle



Removing a new infestation of thistles



Red trolleys came in handy while tidying up the hacked vegetation along the tracks.

What's been happening at Red Rocks Saltwater Creek?

Coordinator: Nick Stephens

The April weeding Working Bee was attended by 8 volunteers – many thanks to John E, Sue, Colin, Heather, Luke, Maurice, Patricia and Nick – who, in 2 hours, managed to remove 6 large bags of sea spurge from the hind dunes between Red Rocks Beach and the McRae Avenue track. An inspection up to Justice Rd showed no further infestations. It's great to see the results of long-term efforts and to know that we are now on top of Sea Spurge, with only annual maintenance of this weed required along our section of the beach.



Sea spurge removal team



Sea spurge - remove using gloves and protect your eyes from white sap.

*** **UPCOMING WORKING BEES - SAVE THE DATES** ***

WORKING BEES

- All Working Bees are on a Sunday 10-12noon.
- Bring a bottle of water and dress for the weather with sturdy shoes.

FOSER:

- SUNDAY 2 JULY** - Annual Planting at Scenic Estate Reserve
- SUNDAY 6 August** - Weed control -gorse
- SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER** Annual Open Day - Note change of date!

RRSWC:

- SUNDAY 30 JULY** planting at Saltwater Creek
- SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER-** at Red Rocks



Committees

SUB-COMMITTEE OF PICS

Red Rocks / Saltwater Creek Coastcare &
Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve

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 Secretary: Sue Woolley basscoast@birdlife.org.au

Bass Coast Climate Action Network:

Michael Nugent: BassCoastCAN@gmail.com Ph: 0416 039 933

PICS COMMITTEE 2023

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:

Dr Laura Brearley

Penny Manning, Terry Nott, Phil Wright, Anne Davie,

Meg Anderson, Michelle Maes., Sharyn Cornthwaite

Pauline Taylor

The Committee meets at 9.30 am on 1st Saturday month

Membership

We invite you to join PICS or renew your membership for 2023 if you have not already done so.

 <https://picsvictoria.org.au/become-amember/>

or contact us via phone or [email](#)

New members welcome!



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 including the Penguin Parade
- Receive “The Penguin” quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to exclusive presentation by expert speakers on planning, wildlife, 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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Single Membership - \$25

Family Membership - \$35

Concession Membership - \$15

Gold Membership - \$200

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-amember/>

You can also download a form from the website or contact secretary, Bruce Wilson Ph: 0414 236 765 or Email: phillipislandconservation@gmail.com

 Find latest news and events on our Facebook page. We invite you to join 3000+ members of our Facebook Community. <https://www.facebook.com/picsvictoria> Information can be found on our website. <https://picsvictoria.org.au>