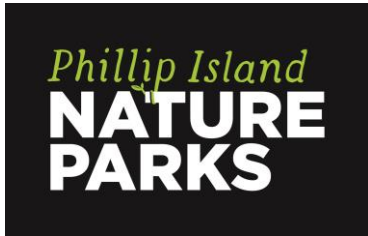


Community and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Meeting held at 4pm on Wednesday 6 December Education Room 3, Visitor Centre Penguin Parade

1	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners – Welcome, including introduction of new members & Apologies		
1.1	<p>Joint Chairs Patrice Mahoney OAM and Jane Jobe acknowledged the Traditional Owners of Millowl, the Bunurong, and paid respects to their elders past, present and emerging. The Chairs welcomed attendees, declaring the meeting open at 4.05pm.</p> <p>Members in attendance: Patrice Mahoney OAM Chair (Chair), Jane Jobe Chair (Chair), Gil Smith, Ron Day, Jill Sunderland, Penny Manning, Shane Livingstone, Jess Patman, Robyn Holman, Phil Wright, Nick Say, Doug Waugh, Cheryl Overton, Jim Kiley, Judy Day, Bill Young, Robbie Gray, Bradley Janson, Terry Nott, Michael Kendrick-Wells, Jeff Nottle, Randall Joseph, Andrew Marston (on behalf of Cheryl Owens), Gayle Seddon.</p> <p>Apologies: Gareth Kennedy, Phil Dressing, Simon Woodland, Catherine Basterfield (Chief Executive Officer), Bev Munro (Board Member)</p> <p>In Attendance: Kevin Love (Chair Board), Jarvis Weston (General Manager, Infrastructure & Planning), Jessica McKelson (General Manager Conservation), Ben Thomas (Manager Reserves) Kate Adams (Community Impact Manager), Sarah Hain (Community and Engagement Officer/Minutes).</p>		
3	Minutes from previous meeting	ACTIONS	STATUS
3.1	Minutes from the August 2023 meeting were adopted as a true and correct record of the meeting.	Community Engagement Officer to finalise minutes and add to - www.penguins.org.au/community	Complete
4	Matters Arising from the minutes	ACTIONS	STATUS
4.1	No matters arising.		
5	Declared conflicts of interest	ACTIONS	STATUS
5.1	No declared conflicts of interest		
6	Nature Parks Update	ACTIONS	STATUS

6.1	<p><i>The General Manager, Infrastructure and Planning provided the following update:</i></p> <p>Tourism update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature Parks received the silver award for Major Tourist Attraction at the Victorian Tourism Awards. We were proud of the outcome given the number of significant attractions listed as finalists – Melbourne Zoo got the top prize. • Visitation growth over the past 5 months has exceeded expectations to the point that visitor numbers (year to date) are now exceeding 2019 levels. • China is the biggest international market once again, but internationals overall make up a much smaller proportion of visitor numbers than previously (circa 40% now compared to 60% in 2019). • Set for a very strong summer with domestic visitor numbers still holding strong and international visitor numbers growing very quickly. <p>Strategic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across the next six months the Nature Parks will be working on its future strategy and will lock in some time at an upcoming CEAC meeting to gather some insights as to what this group would like to see the Nature Parks doing more/less of in all aspects of our business. • Nature Parks has contributed to the Phillip Island and San Remo Destination Management Plan, which Destination Phillip Island (Kim Storey) will talk about at today's meeting. <p>Major Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 of the Penguin Parade Boardwalks Redevelopment project commenced in 2022 with \$5M in funding secured from the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund. This group had a walk and talk about the project, and it then met with some delays. Contractors are now being re-engaged to do the work in 2024. • Seeking financial support for future stages of this project to replace existing boardwalks that have reached end of life. <p>Organsiation activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been supporting the 16 Days of Activism to raise awareness of violence against women and children. This is well supported across the Bass Coast and major employers have all participated in an event on the 5th of December in Wonthaggi. • Organisation restructure implementation has been progressing and recruitment is underway for vacant roles. 		
7	Bushfire Management Plan and General Fire Season Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
7.1	<p>The Manager Reserves provided an overview of the Bushfire Management Plan and the coming fire season. The Bushfire Management Plan can be found here: Management Plans » Phillip Island Nature Parks (penguins.org.au)</p> <p>The Bass Coast Shire emergency management plans can be found here: Our Role in Emergencies Bass Coast Shire</p>	<p>Provide link to the Nature Parks Bushfire Management Plan.</p> <p>Provide link to BCSC Emergency Management Plan.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>

8	Community Engagement Projects	ACTIONS	STATUS
8.1	<p>The Community Engagement Officer provided an update on current Community Engagement projects.</p> <p>Sharing Our Shores This annual campaign aims to engage the local community and visitors to the island to raise awareness of the policies and regulations to ensure everyone can enjoy the beaches and to help protect wildlife on our shores (and help our conservation efforts of endangered species on the beaches and dunes). This year we are supported by Bass Coast Shire Council and the Conservation Regulator, and we will run the primary school art competition again. More information on the campaign can be found here: Sharing our Shores » Phillip Island Nature Parks (penguins.org.au)</p> <p>Community Open Day Wrap Up Overall, the day was a success, and the change of date was well received as it meant an earlier penguin viewing time for families. The conservation expo will need further evaluation to determine the best way to run this for next time. The September date is recommended for future years.</p> <p>Shearwater Report 2023 Our first report detailing the success and importance of this campaign has been shared with CEAC members.</p> <p>Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Biodiversity Project A community update will be shared over the coming weeks with the local community. Project updates can be viewed on the project web page here: Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Biodiversity Project » Phillip Island Nature Parks (penguins.org.au)</p>	Provide link to digital posters for sharing among networks	Complete
9	Wildlife Rescue Planning & Partner Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
	<p>The General Manager Conservation provided an update on current conservation activities.</p> <p>Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past weeks, a core group of stakeholders including the Nature Parks, Wildlife Victoria, Bass Coast Shire Network, Regional Roads Victoria and local vets came together to discuss how to better manage wildlife communication and consistency across the Island. The group looked at public awareness for visitors and the community and discussed how to improve key messaging from visual to social call to action. 		

9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to this collaboration, Wildlife VIC 24/7 hotline 03 8400 7300 is now the primary number for all wildlife emergencies. If all calls for wildlife emergencies go to the hotline, we can understand where the hot spots are for wildlife. • Joint branding and messaging are now being sent out to all stakeholders and will continue to go out over coming months. • Wildlife VIC has service agreements with both island vets so the local vets will be available to support injured animals after hours. • Randall Joseph inquired regarding whether there would continue to be rehabilitation of over-abundant wildlife. Jess responded that PINP are reviewing animal welfare requirements under the Conservation Regulator Guidelines and would need to revisit the messaging around this soon. 		
9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, Eastern Barred Bandicoots (EBB) are being killed on roads, data can identify hot spots, and as a result there are now going to be new 'care for wildlife' signs in specific areas to warn motorists of EBB in these areas. • A review of all wildlife signage was undertaken, and signs are being updated across the island with consideration of known hot spots and to deliver a consistent call to action and reduce signage clutter. <p>Bush Stone Curlew (BSC) Planned Re-location and Release Update The Nature Parks Board endorsed the planned release of the BSC as part of the Nature Parks' commitment to the Threatened Species Plan and wider initiatives to support the recovery of the species in Southeast Australia. The release of birds is schedule for August 2024. Further updates about this project will be available over coming months.</p>		
10	Destination Phillip Island Strategy Update - DPI		
10.1	Destination Phillip Island shared a presentation detailing its plans towards 2033. Details relating to the plan can be found here: Phillip Island and San Remo Destination Management Plan (visitphillipisland.com.au)	DPI presentation to be shared with the minutes.	
11	Group Update - Group		
11.1	<p>PICS Pleased to advise that the framework Western Port Bay (actforwesternportbay.au) has been endorsed by Bass Coast Shire Council and all four councils in Westernport, and all local members for Parliament. Next step is working towards a governance model so hoping to seek funding to support this as next step of this project.</p> <p>The very successful 'For our Future' project has now concluded, and a report has been shared with the group. PICS is delighted they could help spread environmental stewardship via such an engaging program.</p> <p>Island Voice Pyramid Rock Road monitoring has been taking place with substantial numbers being recorded. This has prompted a renewed push for Stage 2 of the road speed review to be put into action. Counsellor Rooks noted this request and confirmed he is supportive of this being raised again with Council and getting this back on the agenda.</p>		
12	General Business - Group		
12.1	Kate Adams, Community Impact Manager was introduced to the committee.		
13	Close of Meeting		

	The meeting closed at 6pm and members were invited to attend Christmas celebration in the Penguin Parade.		
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