

# Community and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Meeting held at 4pm on Wednesday 7 February 2024 the Nobbies Discovery Centre

<b>1</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners – Welcome, including introduction of new members &amp; Apologies</b>		
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 4.08pm.</p> <p><b>Members in attendance:</b> Patrice Mahoney OAM (Chair), Jane Jobe (Chair), Gil Smith, Ron Day, Jill Sunderland, Penny Manning, Shane Livingstone, Robyn Holman, Phil Wright, Doug Waugh, Bill Young, Michael Kendrick-Wells, Greg Johnson, Andrew Marston – (on behalf of Cheryl Owens), Gareth Kennedy, Jeff Nottle – (Observer).</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Kevin Love (Chair Board), Bev Munro (Board Member), Geoff Wescott (Board Member), Michaela Salvato (Board Member), Catherine Basterfield (Chief Executive Officer), Jessica McKelson (General Manager Conservation) Kate Adams (Community Impact Manager), Jacqui Moloney (Executive Support Officer/Minutes).</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Terry Nott, Phil Dressing, Jess Patman, Jim Kiley, David Rooks, Alycia James, Gayle Seddon, Nick Say, Robbie Gray, Simon Woodland, Cheryl Overton, Bradley Janson, Randall Joseph</p> <p>These minutes reflect the order in which items were discussed and may differ from the order of items on the agenda.</p>		
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes from previous meeting</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
3.1	Minutes from the December 2023 meeting were adopted as a true and correct record of the meeting.	Community Impact Manager to finalise minutes and add to - <a href="http://www.penguins.org.au/community">www.penguins.org.au/community</a>	Complete
<b>5</b>	<b>Nature Parks Update</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
5.1	<p>The CEO, Catherine provided an overview of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peak season, Nature Parks had 35 sell out nights from mid-December to end of January. We are now entering a new peak season with Lunar New Year, and we are sold out from 7 to 18 February.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There has been a vast change in our demographic over the last few years and Phillip Island has enjoyed visitors staying from regional areas in Australia and staying longer. International visitor growth is day trip visitors and we saw strong domestic growth and international in the last peak period.</li> <li>- Beach safety saw discussions within our business and other agencies working collaboratively to improve and update signage, noting that day-trippers are most at risk. A broader discussion is how do we best communicate and share key messages for beach safety. Nature Parks is ensuring compliance with Australian standards and Surf Lifesaving Victoria are leading discussions for different ideas and solutions. Over the next couple of months, you will see updated signage installed on Nature Parks sites.</li> <li>- Nobbies Centre saw the closure of the Antarctic Journey in mid-January. Eight years ago, it had a five-year digital life and now this has failed. We are now looking at what this experience will be in time, community expectations on the facility, purpose and consideration will be given to how we best utilise our available funding. Feedback from this group is welcome, however broader community input may not be sought for the commercial attraction options for this venue.</li> <li>- Nature Parks <i>Conservation News</i> will now be published every six months rather than quarterly and in between those publications, other news and program updates will be published via Know Your Nature Parks, media releases, newsletters, and on Nature Parks website.</li> <li>- The Conservation Manager reported on Sharing our Shores campaign which was a successful collaboration with Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) and other entities over summer. Results will be shared more broadly when the campaign ends in April.</li> <li>- Nature Park's Board Member Patrice Mahoney has been contacted to be involved in Backroads ABC program which will be coming to Wonthaggi.</li> </ul>		
<b>8</b>	<b>Group update</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
8.1	<p><b>Phillip Island Landcare Group</b> Mike Cleeland informed members of the appointment of a new President, Carolyn Atherton with David Rooks stepping down.</p> <p><b>Westernport Water</b> Gareth Kennedy reported on the upcoming bridge works that will start at the end of February and will have suspension scaffolding for the duration of the works. If anyone has any questions about the upcoming bridge closure works or to clarify anything, please contact Westernport Water.</p> <p><b>Community Member</b> Michael Kendrick Wells, reported on recent events that he had attended in support of community with diverse accessibility needs. He highlighted the use of the iconic penguin at these events is a tool that gets good engagement.</p> <p><b>PICS</b> Jeff Nottle informed members on the appointment of a new President for PICS, Greg Johnson. Jeff will be stepping down after 10 years as President. Jeff highlighted the decision from Tania Plibersek to block the wind turbine plant at Port of Hastings and all the hard work from Preserve Westernport Gorup, PICS and several other organisations. We now have a strong group to advocate for Westernport Bay for the importance of this area going forward and the Bay now being highlighted in the media.</p> <p><b>Island Voice (Phillip Island Progress Association)</b> Ron Day reported of the commencement of stage 2 road speed review is imminent.</p>		

<b>7</b>	<b>Bush stone-curlew roadshow</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
7.1	<p>The Community Impact Manager, Kate, provided an update on the implementation of the community engagement plan for the Bush stone-curlew re-introduction program. The next stage of providing information sessions for key stakeholders and the community on 2 and 16 March. The 16 March session will be promoted in local papers with a 90-minute presentation, Q&amp;A, aviary visit and light lunch. If there is a lot of interest from the community, we may offer additional sessions. There will also be a letter drop to surrounding suburbs of the wild release sites that are scheduled for August 2024.</p> <p>Any enquiries on this can be found on our web page - <a href="https://penguins.org.au">Bush stone-curlew » Phillip Island Nature Parks (penguins.org.au)</a></p>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Board Update</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
4.1	The CEO reported that there was no Board update as the Board has not met since the last CEAC meeting December 2023.		
<b>6</b>	<b>Strategy planning workshop</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
6.1	The meeting closed at 4.50pm for the strategy planning workshop to be held.		
<b>9</b>	<b>General Business</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
9.1	Nil		
<b>10</b>	<b>Close of Meeting</b>		
10.1	The meeting closed at 4.50pm		