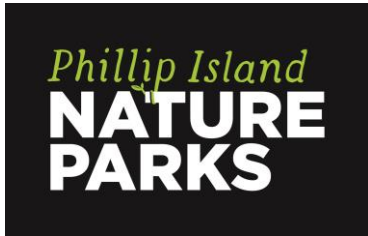


Community and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Meeting held at 4pm on Thursday 24 March 2022, Ocean & Summerland Rooms, The Nobbies

1	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners – Welcome, including introduction of new members & Apologies		
1.1	<p>Joint Chairs (Patrice Mahoney OAM and Jane Jobe) provided the Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, the Bunurong, and welcomed attendees, declaring the meeting open at 4.05pm. All members new and existing, were welcomed.</p> <p>Members in attendance: Patrice Mahoney OAM Chair (Board Member), Jane Jobe Chair (Board Member), Gil Smith, Bill Cleeland, Ron Day, Jill Sunderland, Warwick Tempany, Mike Cleeland, Penny Manning, Phil Dressing, Robbie Gray, Fiona Van Meurs, Jim Kiley, Doug Waugh, Shane Livingstone, Bradley Janson, Bill Young.</p> <p>In Attendance: Kevin Love (Chair Board), Catherine Basterfield (Board Member), Jessica McKelson (Conservation Manager), Jarvis Weston Jarvis Weston (Acting Projects and Planning Manager), Sarah Hain (Community and Engagement Officer/Minutes), Annette Stewart (for Gayle Seddon)</p> <p>Guests: Nil</p> <p>Apologies: Michaela Salvato (Board Member), Jeff Nottle, Linda Cuttriss, Cheryl Overton, Michael Kendrick Wells, Gareth Kennedy, Cr Halstead, Phil Wright, Alycia James, Simon Woodland, Nick Say</p>		
3	Minutes from previous meeting	ACTIONS	STATUS
3.1	Minutes from the December 2021 meeting were approved as read.	Community Engagement Officer to finalise minutes and add to - www.penguins.org.au/community	
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	Board Update	ACTIONS	STATUS

6.1	<p><i>Chairs, Patrice Mahoney and Jane Jobe gave the following update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board met this week over two days, 23 & 24 March, and were able to resume its familiarisation activities, including a walking tour at KCR and a visit to the Bush stone curlews and the Barb Martin Bushbank nursery. • The Board participated in the annual budget planning workshop held at the Nobbies. • It was noted that the Nature Parks' operations continued to be impacted by border restrictions in the first half of this year, and despite a strong high season over summer it will take some time to return to former revenue levels. • Also noted was the decision made by Delaware North to end their current contract with the Nature Parks. The Board was pleased to see a number of providers applying for the opportunity which has been advertised. • Also discussed was the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes program (DAL). It was noted that the objectives are consistent with many of the strategic objectives of the Nature Parks. Nature Parks will be making a submission to this program. • It was noted that as part of the regular strategic risk reviews undertaken, the Board endorsed the Child Protection & Safety procedure, and was pleased to share that over 50% of the Nature Parks team had undertaken the Child Protection training. 		
7	Nature Parks Update – CEO, Conservation Manager, Community Engagement Officer	ACTIONS	STATUS
7.1	<p><i>Conservation Update</i> <i>Jessica McKelson, Conservation Manager reported on the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was a good season for the Hooded Plovers with 14 fledged, 3 banded, and 2 chicks being monitored. • The Island Ark Symposium VII is scheduled to be held in early September. Nature Parks will be hosting the event this year at the Penguin Parade, and it will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase Phillip Island's conservation achievements and current projects. • The Eastern barred bandicoots (EBB) are continuing to do well and have been observed at various locations across the Island, including Ventnor. At Churchill Island four EBBs had been introduced from Tasmania to improve genetic diversity of the population. <p><i>Community Engagement Update</i> <i>Sarah Hain, Community Engagement Officer reported on the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Open Day was held on Sunday 6 March. Despite inclement weather the event was well attended with over 3,700 people registering for tickets online. The activities – Conservation Dog demonstration, Koalas and Curlews Walk & Talk, and The Secret Lives of Penguins also attracted good numbers. The event was well supported by BCSC, Westernport Water, Phillip Island 	<p>Community Engagement Officer to invite CEAC members to submit abstracts to the Island Ark Symposium VII https://islandarks.com.au/</p> <p>Community Engagement Officer to circulate EBB spotter link</p>	

	<p>Conservation Society, Friends of Churchill Island Society, National Surfing Reserve, Association of Rangers and Conservationists VIC and the Nature Parks Reconciliation Advisory Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 2 April will see the National Surfing Reserve event take place after a year off. PINP are hoping to enter a staff team. This is a great community event, supported by PINP, BCSC, Westernport Water, Newhaven College & PI Boardriders Club. • Coming up expect to see campaigns in market including the annual Shearwater migration, major projects, rabbit proofing of Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach, and continuing campaigns that will support threatened species and the ongoing work of our conservation team. 		
8	Major Projects update – Projects & Planning Manager	ACTIONS	STATUS
	<p><i>Jarvis Weston, Acting Projects and Planning Manager provided an update on the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jarvis shared an overview of current major projects, and those projects that are in the pipeline and for which funding is being sought. Current projects included stabilization works to the staircase at Forrest Caves, new toilets at Pyramid Rock, and upgrades to the Cowes-Rhyll Trail in the Conservation Hill area. • It was noted that in the past questions had been raised with regards to road closures in the Summerland Peninsula area. CEO Catherine Basterfield clarified this stating that there are no current plans to close any roads in the area. If funding for the Summerland Peninsula Trails project eventuates further consultation will be conducted with the community and key stakeholders, including Bass Coast Shire Council who manage the road, to guide decision making about the future use of the area. 		
8	Shearwater Season – General Update – Community Engagement Officer	ACTIONS	STATUS
	<p><i>Sarah Hain, Community Engagement Officer, shared the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April/May will see the annual migration of the Short-tailed Shearwaters. As in previous years, Nature Parks will be working hard to ensure the safe departure of the birds, and this year will also launch a special campaign, Dark Sky So Shearwaters Fly. • Utilizing a grant obtained by WIRES, the Conservation team hope to engage the community, particularly local business to “turn off for takeoff” asking local residents to turn off outdoor lights and to be cautious on the roads. 	Community Engagement Officer to share the “Dark Sky So Shearwater Fly” marketing with CEAC members for dissemination among own networks	
9	Group Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
9.1	<p><i>Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that PICS were in attendance for 5 days at VCAT with regards to the Forrest Caves caravan park planning permit application. This was finally refused by VCAT on the basis of cumulative concerns, which PICS believed was a great outcome. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICS also advised the Phillip Island Land Alliance – bringing together various coast care groups to form a united front – has been formed – this was driven and initiated by David Rooks • PICS also has an arts working group seeking to engage people interested in a variety of initiatives such as eco art and eco movies <p>Preserve Westernport Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enquired about the acquisition of land at Western Ryll inlet by Nature Parks. Nature Parks CEO clarified that currently Nature Parks does not have the funds to acquire this, noting that, Nature Parks would of course manage this if it were acquired • Discussion was held around potential outcomes for the land, it was suggested that supporting the DAL could assist in this hence if people are supportive. <p>Newhaven Coast Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted several feral cat sightings in this area, asked about cat control. The Conservation Manager advised that we are doing our best to control numbers of feral cats within the resources we have, undertaking at least 3 pulses per year, which is maintaining low number of feral cats but not aiming for eradication. BCSC commitment made for next year for 24-hour cat containment was noted as being a step in the right direction. <p>Bird Life Bass Coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised they are wanting to start a project about blue ring parrots, are currently seeking a grant and are currently welcoming any feedback around sightings. <p>Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Coast Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that planning is well underway for the implementation of rabbit proof fencing in the area and have applied for coast care grant for signage. • Also, they have been working with the community to plant native plants on nature strips and in private areas • Advised that the Urban Forest Strategy for Bass Coast Shire, an initiative of BCSC is about to start, which will involve the setting of revegetation targets and opportunities for community engagement <p>PI Integrated Transport Study Group</p> <p>Noted that as part of the Roadkill monitoring project, to date they have counted over 1100 kills on only 3.6km section of road, speed limits have not been altered on that road, hoping for dynamic signage to be considered at end of trial.</p> <p>Ventnor Coast Care Association</p> <p>Grant received to do work in Ventnor with traditional owners as middens in area, taking out agapanthus and Aram lilies and other pest species, further work pending further permits granted, will be planting indigenous species at next stage.</p>	<p>Community Engagement Officer to enquire with Westernport Water about trapping cats on their site</p> <p>Conservation Manager to follow up with team as to locations of blue wing parrots</p>	
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10	General Business		
10.1	No further business was discussed.		
11	Close of meeting		
11.1	The Chair closed the meeting closed at 6.05pm		
12	Next Meeting		
12.1	The Committee noted its next meeting date as 23 June 2022 at the Penguin Parade.		