

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting held at 4:00pm, Thursday 28 June 2018 at the Education Pod.

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| 1 | Welcome and Apologies | | |
| 1.1 | <p>The Chair declared the meeting open. Attendance / Apologies are listed below.</p> <p>Environment Committee: Shelley Lavender (CHAIR and Board), Mike Cleeland, Diana Whittington (for Bass Coast Shire Council), Gavan O'Connor, Gil Smith, Community Committee: Stephen Davie (CHAIR and Board), Gareth Kennedy, Deborah Holland, Anne Davie, In Attendance: Kevin Love (Acting Board Chair), Liz Stinson (Board Member), Catherine Basterfield (CEO), Dan Kallstrom (Acting Conservation Manager), Hayley Smith (Executive Assistant - Minutes). Apologies: Deirdre Griepsma, Penny Manning, Bessie Tyers, Jane Daly, Yvette Tancheff, Margaret Hancock, Patsy Hunt, Pauline Taylor, Jan Fleming, Cr Stephen Fullarton, Joel Geoghegan, Kim Storey, Christine Grayden.</p> | | |
| 2 | Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners | ACTIONS | STATUS |
| 2.1 | The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land and paid respect to their elders past and present. | | |
| 3 | Minutes of Previous Meeting | ACTIONS | STATUS |
| 3.1 | The minutes of the Community and Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 2 March 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record. | | |
| 4 | Matters Arising from Previous Minutes | ACTIONS | STATUS |
| 4.1 | <p>MONTH RAISED: MARCH 2018 The Chair introduced team members Paul Sandells (Chief Operating Officer), Jessica McKelson (Conservation Manager), and Rachael Ferguson (Volunteer Coordinator).</p> | CEO to provide a brief overview of the new Organisational Structure at the next Committee Meeting. | Complete. See Item 5.1 below. |
| 4.2 | <p>MONTH RAISED: MARCH 2018 Community consultation on the draft Strategic Plan 2018-23 had been undertaken with a high amount of support received. The finalised plan will be presented at the next meeting and thank you to those who provided feedback, which has been valuable.</p> | Finalised Strategic Plan 2018-23 to be presented to the Committees at the next meeting (June). | Complete. See Item 5.1 below. |
| 4.3 | <p>MONTH RAISED: MARCH 2018 There was feedback that the food at Churchill Island Café had improved however the café chairs on the balcony were very low meaning that the railing blocks the view over Westernport. Chair cushions were suggested.</p> | Nature Parks will pass on feedback regarding the Churchill Island Café chairs to Delaware North | Complete. |
| 4.4 | The Chair advised that a Draft revised Advisory Committee Terms of Reference would be distributed and requested feedback from Committee Members. | Executive Assistant to distribute Draft Revised Terms of Reference to | Complete. |

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| | | Committee Members to provide feedback. | |
| 4.5 | <p><u>Feral Cats</u></p> <p>There was a query regarding the status of new regulations relating to feral cats and an update on feral cat control was requested. Management reported on the proposed changes to state legislation to declare feral cats as a pest animal on public land, including that consultation was in progress by DELWP, and that Nature Parks supported the change which would greatly assist feral cat management. Management reported that feral cat numbers on Phillip Island had increased significantly and control was far more extensive, including trapping and spotlighting. It was noted that Nature Parks works in collaboration with Council on the issue. An update by Council on its work in this space was requested (see Item 8.1).</p> | | |
| 5 | Phillip Island Nature Parks Update | ACTIONS | STATUS |
| 5.1 | <p><u>General Update</u></p> <p>The CEO updated the committees as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitation was remaining strong with numbers slightly above that of the same time last year. • The Board had adopted the Strategic Plan 2018-23 which was now awaiting Ministerial endorsement. • Key Stakeholder Workshops were undertaken for the Draft 30-Year Conservation Plan and the draft plan had been approved by the Board for consultation, proposed to commence in late August (combined with consultation for the 5-Year Conservation Plan and also the Threatened Species Plan). • The Nature Parks had been successful in securing grant funding for its work on threatened species. • National Reconciliation Week activities (26 May-1 June) were successful. Events were held in collaboration with Bass Coast Shire Council and Westernport Water. Attendance at NAIDOC events is welcomed (6-15 July) – details to be distributed to committee members (ACTION – see right). • Interpretation Plan roll-out would take place at key Nature parks sites later this year, followed by other sites. • All underground services had been installed at the site of the new Penguin Parade visitor centre with above ground construction to commence soon. The project was on schedule with anticipated completion by November 2019. <p>The CEO provided an overview of the new Organisational Structure. Structure to be provided to Committee Members (ACTION). The CEO shared the Vision and Mission from the Phillip Island Nature Parks Strategic Plan 2018-23. Members noted that the plan was still awaiting Ministerial approval and that the full plan would be distributed to members and full overview provided when possible (ACTION – see right).</p> | <p>Executive Assistant to distribute NAIDOC Week poster to members.</p> <p>Executive Assistant to provide Organisational Structure to Committee Members.</p> <p>CEO to provide detailed Strategic Plan overview to the committee following Ministerial approval of the plan.</p> | <p>Complete.</p> <p>Complete. Attachment 1.</p> <p>Overview scheduled September 2018 Meeting.</p> |
| 5.2 | <p><u>Conservation Update</u></p> <p>The Acting Conservation Manager provided a verbal summary of highlights from the May 2018 Conservation Update which had been circulated to Committee Members and provided in hard copy at the meeting. The Committee Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of plastic content in stomachs of local short-tailed shearwater birds was currently minimal. Carcasses were currently in storage ready for investigation by the Research Team. • The Seal Spotter program had been promoted via television, radio, Nature Parks website, through schools, the ‘Stem Sisters’ program. • The Bush Bank was connected to ‘Class A’ recycled water but this was not in use currently. • The results of the study undertaken on wallabies were not yet published and Management will follow up to check status of this (most results are publically available through universities). CEO to see if a summary of the findings could be made available in the interim (ACTION – see right). <p>Concern was raised regarding wallabies including their gaining access to farmland through wallaby-proof fencing and destruction to flora caused by overabundant wallabies and possums. Enhanced wildlife corridor networks and review of the recommended tree species to plant to assist with control was suggested and discussed amongst members, with consideration to climate change and road dangers.</p> | <p>CEO to see if a summary of findings of the study on wallabies could be made available and check on status of publication.</p> | |
| 6 | New Nature Parks Branding | ACTIONS | STATUS |

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| 6.1 | The CEO shared the new Nature Parks Branding with Committee Members on-screen, which had been approved and was in the process of being implemented throughout the organisation commencing with the Penguin Parade. Committee feedback was positive including that it looked modern, corporate/professional and fun. | | |
| 7 | Terms of Reference | ACTIONS | STATUS |
| 7.1 | <p>Committee Members were provided with a hard copy of the finalised revised Community and Environment Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and noted the review process as summarised by the Chair which included feedback by Management, Committee Members and the Board. Committee Members noted individual feedback and changes, and a list of local stakeholder organisations which would be invited to join the new (merged) committee for the next 3-year membership term. Five Community Members positions would be available.</p> <p>Members noted that all existing members were eligible for reappointment and could renominate for the coming new term and that correspondence would be distributed to individuals and groups with further details.</p> | <p>Finalised Terms of Reference to be distributed to members. Correspondence regarding nomination for the coming membership term to be distributed to members.</p> | Complete. |
| 8 | Matters Arising and Advice from Committee Members | ACTIONS | STATUS |
| 8.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westernport Water Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Westernport Water were encouraging removal of single-use plastics targeting local businesses. - Access and Usage Pricing for the 2018-19 period had been approved by the Essential Services Commission. Available here: http://www.westernportwater.com.au/customers/residential/welcome/access-usage-charges/ - Investment into climate change continues with construction of a new water storage facility at Wimbledon Heights. - The Westernport Water Reconciliation Action Plan (Reflect RAP 2018-19) had received Reconciliation Australia endorsement. • Landcare Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a recommendation that the Nature Parks consider purchase of the land for sale at Kitty Miller Bay, being that it was not suitable for agriculture and it was significant wetland habitat for wildlife. Management responded that it would approach Trust for Nature about the opportunity. There was support from other committee members regarding the concept (ACTION – see right). - Refer above item 4.5, Feral Cats: Council discussed its work on domestic and feral cat management including the curfew for domestic cats (which had been place for 12 months). It was noted that further information in relation to local laws/compliance would be sourced and provided to the Committee for information (ACTION – see right). - Copies of a new tern identification book were made available to members. A copy of another new book 'The Feral Feast Recipe Book' was shown which is available for purchase through Landcare. • Bass Coast Shire Council Environment Team Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 370,000 plants were planted through the Biolinks Plan which achieved the target of 5.5% increase across the Shire. - Scenic Estate Stage 2 works are complete with a new track installed and signage on order. - Council's 2018-19 Budget was recently approved. Many environmental programs continue into the new year such as hooded plover protection and revegetation projects. • The Nature Parks supporting submission for the Phillip Island Entrance Revitalisation project was acknowledged. It was noted that the project received funding of \$50,000 and next steps would be determined with Council soon including community involvement. • Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Coast Care Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group had not met due to bad weather. - Weed infestation around some staircase areas and along Surf Beach esplanade was noted by Management. • BirdLife Bass Coast Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern was raised regarding upcoming works associated with the AGL Crib Point natural gas project. - Concern was also raised regarding boat proximity to whales in the areas with comment that some do not adhere or may not know about the restrictions. • Phillip Island Conservation Society Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members noted upcoming events for NAIDOC Week including a Flag Raising Ceremony on 10 July (10:30, Churchill Is.) and | <p>CEO to investigate opportunity regarding purchase of land at Kitty Miller with Trust for Nature.</p> <p>Council to provide further information regarding feral and domestic cat management by Council including information from local laws.</p> | |

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| | <p>the theme in honour of Ruby Gates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Conservation Society had involvement in consultation for the Nature Parks 30-Year Conservation Plan and was also involved with the Renewable Phillip Island Group. - Membership had increased significantly following local political issues. - New Nature Parks officer at the Bush Bank (Candice Ochsenham) was doing a wonderful job. | | |
| 7 | Other Business | | |
| 7.1 | <p>The Board noted reappointment of current Board Members (except Steve Davie who did not reapply) for the coming new Board term (2018-21), with the addition of three new Board Members; Michaela Salvato, David Cochrane and Jane Foley. Board Member Liz Stinson was appointed as Chair. Board Member profiles can be viewed here: https://www.penguins.org.au/about/corporate-affairs/our-minister-and-board/</p> | <p>New Board to be invited to the September 2018 meeting to meet members.</p> | <p>Complete.</p> |
| 8 | Next Meeting | | |
| 8.1 | <p>Committee Members noted the date of the next meeting (Thursday 27 September 2018).</p> | | |
| 9 | Meeting Close | | |
| 9.1 | <p>Committee Members were thanked for their participation and contribution and welcomed to renominate to continue into the next 3-year membership term. The Chair also thanked Management and staff for their support.</p> <p>The Acting Board Chair acknowledged outgoing Board Member (and Community Advisory Committee Chair) Stephen Davie for his overall contribution to the Nature Parks, over four Board terms.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 5:38pm.</p> | | |

