

Community and Environment Advisory Committee Minutes



Meeting held: 4:00pm, Thursday 31 August 2017 at the Education Pod (Summerlands)

1	Welcome and Apologies		
1.1	<p>The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:05pm. Attendance / Apologies are listed below: Environment Committee: Shelley Lavender (CHAIR and Board), Gavan O'Connor, Penny Manning, Gil Smith, Bessie Tyers, Gareth Kennedy, Joel Geoghegan, Danielle Lisle (Acting Coordinator Coast and Bushland Management – Bass Coast Shire Council), Mike Cleeland. Community Committee: Stephen Davie (CHAIR and Board), Cr Stephen Fullarton, Deborah Holland, Yvette Tancheff, Jane Daly, Jan Fleming, Pauline Taylor, Anne Davie, Patsy Hunt. In Attendance: Jeff Floyd (Board Chair), Kevin Love (Board), Liz Stinson (Board), Catherine Basterfield (CEO), Paul Sandells (Chief Operating Officer), Dr Roz Jessop (Environment Manager), Dr Duncan Sutherland (Deputy Research Manager), Hayley Smith (Executive Assistant - Minutes). Apologies: Kim Storey, Christine Grayden, Margaret Hancock, Deirdre Griepsma, Lois Gaskin, Steve Parker. The Chair welcomed new Environment Advisory Committee Member representing BirdLife Bass Coast, Gil Smith. It was noted that Penny Manning (previous representative for BirdLife Bass Coast) would remain on the Committee as a community member. It was noted that Jan Fleming was the new representative for Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve. The Chair also welcomed the new Nature Parks Chief Operating Officer, Paul Sandells who provided background on his previous roles and experience.</p>		
2	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners		
2.1	The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land and paid respect to their elders past and present.		
3	Minutes from Previous Meetings	ACTIONS	STATUS
3.1	The minutes of the Community and Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 29 June 2017 were accepted as a true and correct record.		
4	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	ACTIONS	STATUS
4.3	<p>FROM MARCH 2017 MEETING Comment: Bessie Tyers enquired regarding rehabilitation of the Rhyll Transfer Station site and asked if there will an opportunity for people to go walking in there soon. Update (August 2017): Public access to this site is limited in the post closure period, however, the Nature Parks can work with the BCSC to arrange a date for a community walking tour at the site in the future.</p>	Environment Manager to discuss with Council the possibility of a community visit to the Rhyll Transfer Station site.	Postponed to early 2018. Date TBA.
	Committee Members noted the status of matters from the previous minutes and no other matters were raised.		
5	Phillip Island Nature Parks Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
5.1	<p>Committee members noted the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Parks experienced another record year with a total of 1.168 million paying visitors across all attractions – up 6.8% from last year. Overall there were 1.49 million visitors to the Nature Parks including additional free entry at the Nobbies Centre. July visitation was very positive and this trend is anticipated to continue into the remainder of the year. Many visitors attended the popular Whale Festival which was a huge success. Development of the Annual Report 2016-17 is complete and the document will soon be tabled in Parliament prior to being released to the community and stakeholders. An average of 588 penguins crossed Summerlands Beach in June and 476 in July which is average prior to breeding season. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Nature Parks Strategic Plan is currently in development and consultation will commence over the next couple of months. • The Anzacs toilets have now been replaced (an action from the Cape Woolamai Coastal Reserves Master Plan). • The Nature Parks is commencing a new ticketing system on 1/9/17 which will bring significant improvements to our operations for staff and our visitors. • Development of an Interps Plan for the Nature Parks is currently in progress which will look at integrating our strategies and formats to tell our story (for tourism and recreational areas). This includes signage. • There are various works in progress at Churchill Island including improvements to the machinery shed, toilets, sheep shearing area (installation of stadium seating) and work to the heritage buildings. • The Governor General and his wife visited the Nature Parks on 13 August and thoroughly enjoyed their visit, especially to the Wildlife Hospital and Penguin Parade. <p>The CEO added that the Nature Parks was aware of discussions regarding the concept of a gas site at Cribb Point and is seeking further information. There is no proposal as yet.</p> <p>The CEO discussed with Committee Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That planning for any upcoming works at the Koala Conservation Centre would consider recommendations included in the Woodlands and Wetlands Key Area Plan (including walking track linkages). <p>The Board Chair advised that construction of the new Penguin Parade building would commence soon and a model will be produced which will be on display in Cowes.</p>		
5.2	<p><u>Environment Update (Environment Manager):</u></p> <p>The Environment Manager provided a verbal summary of highlights from the August 2017 Environment Update which had been circulated to Committee Members and provided in hard copy at the meeting. The Environment Manager discussed the following with Committee Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an external review of koalas currently at the Koala Conservation Centre. • Nature Parks is seeking funding for upgrade of the Colonnades toilets which is a priority project. Timing is unknown at this stage. • Concern was raised regarding increased access for pipi fisheries (commercial) along coastal areas and comments were provided (Patsy Hunt) to the Environment Manager. Concern for migratory birds was noted. <p>Committee Members noted that the Nature Parks Environment News can be distributed among networks (public document).</p>		
5.3	<p><u>Eastern Barred Bandicoots Project Update (Deputy Research Manager)</u></p> <p>Committee Members noted a brief overview/update of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature Parks has been working in collaboration with government agencies and Zoos Victoria on a project to help save the Eastern Barred Bandicoot which is listed as critically endangered and extinct on mainland Victoria. • 2 years ago a group of Eastern Barred Bandicoots were released on Churchill Island (a fox-free site). The population has grown and established to a point where it is self-regulating. The project includes research into threats affecting the species. • The Nature Parks has been given approval to release Eastern Barred Bandicoots on Summerland Peninsula later this year as the next phase of the project. <p>The Deputy Research Manager discussed/confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 100 individuals would be released. • Eastern Barred Bandicoots are not Indigenous to Phillip Island. There is an intention to review opportunities for indigenous bandicoot species too. • To enhance their opportunity of survival, landowners can assist with cat control. • Eastern Barred Bandicoots 'get along' with rabbits, possums and other small species. • They can persist with some cats (not all). They cannot survive around foxes. • Nature Parks will continue to provide updates to the community. <p>The Deputy Research Manager provided an update on feral cat control including challenges, tools and techniques used by the team (including ensuring differentiation between domestic and feral cats) and proposed new techniques. The team is currently undertaking research to track movement of domestic cats with GPS collars and is working with Latrobe University on the social science around cat ownership. The team is looking for community members who might like to volunteer their cat. The survey is</p>		

			from the elements which will extend the usable lifetime of the signage.
7	Other Business		
7.1	None.		
8	Next Meeting		
8.1	Committee Members noted the date of the next meeting (Thursday 30 November 2017). The Chair and CEO thanked Committee Members, Management Team members and presenters for their contribution. The meeting was closed at 5:32pm.		