

Community Advisory Committee Minutes



Meeting held 4:00pm Thursday 29th August 2013 at the Education Pod – Summerlands

1	Welcome & Apologies	
1.1	<p>The Chair declared the meeting open, acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land and paid respect to the elders past and present. Attendance / Apologies are listed below.</p> <p>Environment Committee: Andrew Paxton (Acting CHAIR and Board), Jan Fleming, Tania Maddigan, Penny Manning, Matt Stephenson (for Joel Geoghegan), Bessie Tyers, Mike Cleeland, Tim Ealey.</p> <p>Community Committee: Stella Axarlis (CHAIR and Board), Stephen Davie (Board), Patsy Hunt, Anne Davie, Stephen Fullarton, Deborah Holland, Margaret Hancock, Christine Grayden.</p> <p>In Attendance: Kevin Love (Board), Damian Prendergast (Operations Manager), Dr Roz Jessop (Environment Manager), Jarvis Weston (Senior Environment Supervisor), Hayley Smith (Executive Assistant - Minutes).</p> <p>Apologies: Catherin Bull (Chair and Board), Matthew Jackson (Chief Executive Officer), Cr. Kimberley Brown, Paul Smith, Alison Creighton, Joel Geoghegan, Kay Nair (Mohan Nair), Michael Whelan, Pauline Taylor, Louise Parsons, Jane Daly, Gill Hardman.</p>	
1.2	<p><u>New Board member</u></p> <p>The Chair introduced new Nature Parks Board member Kevin Love (present). Kevin provided an overview of his previous experience including 20 years in regional Victoria with the Department of Agriculture, then positions with the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (Deputy Secretary - Public Land Management). Kevin now operates his own advisory business, specialising in project management, policy advice and governance.</p>	
1.3	<p><u>10 Years' Service – Stella Axarlis</u></p> <p>The Environment Committee Chair congratulated Stella Axarlis on 10 years' service as a Phillip Island Nature Parks Board member noting formal acknowledgement by the Hon. Ryan Smith, Minister for Environment and Climate Change at the Board meeting held that morning recognising her skills and contribution to the organisation and the community.</p>	
2	Minutes from Previous Meeting	ACTIONS
2.1	<p><u>Community Advisory Committee</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held 26th June 2013 were accepted as a true and correct record with the following amendment: Item 3.2 (extract):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a donation of various 19th-century replica clothing pieces (Cheryl Strap Stratford). Cheryl used to make replica costumes and has involvement with Churchill Island in the past. <p>Moved: Christine Grayden Seconded: Stephen Fullarton</p>	<p>Executive assistant to amend June minutes as noted (left).</p>
3	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	ACTIONS
3.1	<p><u>South Coast Community Planning Group (SCCPG)</u></p> <p>Nicola Tregear will report to the Environment Committee at the next meeting on planning topics currently being considered by the Phillip Island South Coast Community Planning group.</p> <p>Update: Kay Nair has since submitted an update from SCCPG to accompany the August minutes. See attached.</p>	<p>APRIL 2012 Nicola Tregear to present report at next meeting.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Fire Access Track at Silverleaves</u></p> <p>Comment: Stephen Fullarton raised that the fire access track at Silverleaves has become overgrown and expressed concern regarding access for emergency vehicles in a fire situation.</p> <p>Response: The Senior Environment Supervisor advised that the land/fire track in question is not managed by the Nature Parks, it is either private or DSE. The Senior Environment Supervisor advised that he would look into it further.</p>	<p>Senior Environment Supervisor to follow up at the next Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee</p>

	Update: The Senior Environment Supervisor updated that he had visited the site which had since been slashed and that the track has been discussed by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee.	meeting.	
3.3	<p><u>Western Port Ramsar Site Strategic Management Plan</u></p> <p>Comment: Penny Manning enquired as to if the Nature Parks has had provided input into the draft Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy.</p> <p>Response: Senior Environment Supervisor to enquire with Environment Manager and advise.</p> <p>Update: The Environment Manager updated that workshops regarding the plan had been attended by Nature Parks' staff.</p>	Senior Environment Supervisor to enquire as to if the Nature Parks has provided input into the draft Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy and advise.	Complete – see update (left).
3.4	<p><u>Wildlife (geese, possums and foxes)</u></p> <p>Comment: (Stephen Fullarton) There is a group that shoot foxes near Anderson (around 60 shot during the past month) should the Nature Parks engage them?</p> <p>Response: Foxes off Phillip Island are the responsibility of DEPI however the Nature Parks can give input. Will follow up.</p> <p>Update: The Nature Parks' Fox Manager is in contact with a member of a hunt group who hunt properties throughout south-east Gippsland including the Anderson Peninsula and has contracted him on occasions in response to high priority fox sightings on the island.</p>	Stephen Fullarton to pass on details to Stuart Murphy (Fox Manager) regarding the fox group at Anderson.	Complete – see update (left).
3.5	<p><u>Advertisement: The Age</u></p> <p>Comments: Deborah Holland tabled page 32 of The Age (Saturday June 15 2013) including an advertisement for a Phillip Island 3-Park Pass and accommodation package and commented that in her view the Nature Park's brand is being misused.</p> <p>Comment: Christine Grayden also commented that the package is expensive and misleading.</p> <p>Response: The CEO noted that that advertisement is by Deals.com and advised that he will follow up.</p> <p>Update: The package/deal mentioned above was organised without consultation with the Nature Parks. It has been requested with the organiser that they contact the Nature Parks in the future when planning similar features.</p>	CEO will follow up and inform PINP Communications Dept.	Complete – see update (left).
4	Phillip Island Nature Parks Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
4.1	<p><u>General Update (Operations Manager)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total visitor numbers for the year ending 2012/13 was 1,177,131, to which were 865,617 paying guests (up 9.5% or 75,163 visitors). Growth was received in both domestic and international with China remaining strong. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penguin Parade 526,683 (up 43,621 or 8%) Churchill Island 134,996 (up 15,891 or 13%) Koala Conservation Centre (KCC) 203,938 (up 15,651 or 9%) The Annual Report 2012-2013 is in its final drafting stages. Key highlights for the year included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased in our 3 Parks Pass sales by 13 % Record total China attendance of 140,000 visitors Re-launch of www.penguins.org.au and www.penguinfoundation.org.au Hosted the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at Churchill Island to 2,000 guests Amway India event - 3,900 guests visiting the Nature Parks in one day Completed the Summerland Peninsula Master Plan and submitted the Business Case to Government Won the Governor of Victoria Export Award for “small to medium services” <p>Comment: The Chair acknowledged the management team for their work around the Annual Report 2012-2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The submission for reaccreditation (museum status) for Churchill Island has been finalised with an inspection undertaken by Museums Victoria representatives last week (further update by Christine Grayden below). Finalisation of the draft Key Area Plan for Churchill Island has been delayed. The draft will now be provided for consideration 	Nil	

	<p>by the Board at its October meeting with community consultation proposed for November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tender process for the Nature Parks' next Key Area Plan (South Coast beaches) will commence toward the end of the year. This plan will address facilities such as car parks, toilets and access tracks. 		
4.2	<p><u>Smiths Beach Stairs</u></p> <p>The Nature Parks will be removing the damaged part of the Smiths Beach stairs over the next month. The stairs have been closed since December 2012 due to age and erosion making them unsafe and in a condition that they cannot be repaired without significant works. The South Coast Key Area Plan will address infrastructure and examine other options with consideration to erosion issues at Smiths Beach. There have been no changes to public access at Smiths Beach.</p> <p>Comment: Michael Cleeland asked if Council has been involved in consultation on this matter.</p> <p>Response: Council have been updated. The Nature Parks has also consulted with Smiths Beachcombers Association, Friends of Churchill Island Society and an announcement in the local papers.</p>	Nil	
4.3	<p><u>Organisational Culture</u></p> <p>The Chair raised that the Board had discussed the positive improvement around culture change within the organisation.</p>	Nil	
4.4	<p><u>Environment Update (Senior Environment Supervisor)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter weed projects have focused on shearwater and penguin habitat areas including major work on boxthorn removal. 55,000 plants were installed over the 2012-13 financial year. The team will plant the last 30,000 plants over the coming year finalising the initial revegetation stage for the Rhyll tip site. Representatives from the Tasmanian fox program are currently assisting the team with an island-wide survey to detect fox scats. Results so far have indicated signs in Scenic Estate and Rhyll areas. 153 feral cats were removed from the Nature Parks last financial year. 32 have been removed so far this year. Compulsory desexing and compulsory confinement is in discussion by Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan Committee. <p>Comment: Patsy Hunt raised that a draft plan has recently been completed for the Mornington Peninsula area proposing that all cats be desexed when registered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 hooded plovers were counted during the Hooded Plover and Gull Count on 5th August. (Next count: 1st November). <p>Comment: Stephen Fullarton enquired if current beach erosion issues were affecting hooded plover habitat.</p> <p>Response: The impact is unknown at this stage as there are no records of nests over the month of August.</p> <p>Comment: The recent quad-bike incident at Cape Paterson was also raised (beach disturbance).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adult fiordland penguin was recently released from the Nature Parks Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. The penguin was found in poor condition in the Wilsons Prom area. <p>Comment: It was queried as to if there was a tracker on the penguin. (Response: No)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Woodlands Bushfire Assessment report is nearly finalised and will soon be available on the Nature Parks website. Work is near complete under the Coastcare grant controlling weeds at Kitty Miller Bay and Cape Woolamai. Planning for the DEPI Communities for Nature grant has commenced at Ventnor West including removal of cypress trees and rehabilitation of shearwater habitat. New interps signage designs for Cape Woolamai are complete (awaiting quotes). <p>Comment: Mike Cleeland raised that signage around the light beacon at Cape Woolamai is inaccurate.</p> <p>Response: This was noted previously and the sign has since been amended.</p> <p>Comment: Christine Grayden asked if the interps include reference to the revegetation activities during 1974-84 around the tide bar at Cape Woolamai.</p> <p>Response (ACTION): The Senior Environment Supervisor to follow up.</p> <p>Comment: It was raised that some signage in the quarry area at Cape Woolamai is also inaccurate.</p> <p>Response (ACTION): Senior Environment Supervisor to follow up.</p>	<p>Senior Environment Supervisor to follow up regarding reference to revegetation activities at Cape Woolamai during 1974-84 in new interps signage for the area.</p> <p>Senior Environment Supervisor to follow up regarding signage at the Cape Woolamai quarry area.</p>	<p>Complete.</p> <p>Communications has confirmed that new interps signage will include reference to these events.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
4.5	<p><u>Wildlife and Speed Limits</u></p> <p>Comment: Deborah Holland commented on the unpleasant appearance of marked wallabies along the Penguin Parade entrance road.</p>	Nil	

	<p>Response: It is the responsibility of the managing authority for that road to remove wildlife carcasses (VicRoads).</p> <p>Comment: Deborah also suggested installation of speed bumps and commented that the speed limit changes quickly from 60km to 80km.</p> <p>Response: The Nature Parks has proposed to VicRoads that the speed limit be changed to 60km along that section of road.</p> <p>Comment: Michael Cleeland recommended continued persistence noting the recent reduction in speed limit on the tourist road at Surf Beach introduced with the assistance of community pressure.</p> <p>Comment: Jan Fleming noted 40km speed limits in the Surf Beach area near Pine Street.</p> <p>Comment: Patsy Hunt raised that community pressure helped prevent a rise to 80km near the KCC.</p>		
4.6	<p><u>Dispersants for oil spills</u></p> <p>Comment: Patsy Hunt raised that a 60 Minutes story on the Deep Horizon explosion in the Gulf of Mexico alleged that the dispersant "Corexit" had been used and there were long term detrimental consequences for the environment and people. The program also alleged that the dispersant was listed in some oil spill contingency plans in Australia and may be stored at some locations.</p> <p>Response: Dispersants have not been used for spills in this area to date due to environmental values along our coast. See attached for further information.</p>	Nil	
4.7	<p><u>Penguin Research in Spain</u></p> <p>The Chair discussed a presentation made to the Board by Nature Parks' penguin biologist Andre Chiaradia on penguin research in Spain and suggested that Andre be invited to present at the next advisory committee meeting.</p>	CEO to invite Andre Chiaradia to present at the next meeting.	Complete. Scheduled for 31 st October.
5	PRESENTATION: Scenic Estate Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
5.1	<p>Diana Whittington, Environmental Projects Officer - Bass Coast Shire Council provided a presentation regarding Scenic Estate (also known as "Chinamans"). Committee members were also provided with a handout (attached) which is an extract of the Scenic Estate Draft Masterplan Report by Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd. The draft plan will soon be available online.</p> <p>It was noted that Council recently acquired an additional 57 lots within the estate. If land owners do not pay their rates for more than 3 years, Council can acquire the land. Most landowners have not paid rates. The overall area of the site is 28 hectares.</p> <p>Comment: Christine enquired regarding solutions for picnic rubbish.</p> <p>Response: Bins will be available.</p> <p>Comment: Mike Cleeland raised that a power line within the estate has broken and fallen twice causing fire to his nearby farm and injury to wildlife. He asked if vegetation could be cleared under the power line.</p> <p>Response: The power pole has been recently replaced and clearance of vegetation will take place.</p> <p>Comment: Mike Cleeland raised concern regarding salt accumulation on power poles.</p> <p>Comment: Mike Cleeland raised concern regarding the projected sea-level rise and possible effects on the site's infrastructure.</p> <p>Response: No major infrastructure will be installed at the site (boardwalks only).</p> <p>The concept of a possible wildlife crossing was also discussed.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated Council on progress to date regarding the Scenic Estate site.</p>	Nil	
	The committees separated at 5:00pm to continue their own meetings.		
6	Matters Arising and Advice from Committee Members:	ACTIONS	STATUS
6.1	<p><u>Phillip Island Conservation Society (Anne Davie)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Davie and Margaret Hancock are scheduled to meet with Phoebe Harrison from the University of Melbourne to discuss the issue around rezoning of land at Ventnor. Phoebe is a masters student in the area of urban planning. 	Nil	
6.2	<p><u>Friends of Koalas (Patsy Hunt)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A further map (Map 28) is now available from Council regarding planning amendment C82 (inundation overlay) and expressed her disappointment that the map was not available for the panel hearing or to panel members. Map 28 covers Silverleaves and the golf course area. 	Nil	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Koalas (FOK) recently donated \$800 to the Barb Martin Bush Bank for capillary tables. • FOK are looking to schedule more habitat projects around the KCC and has written to the CEO to start the process. 		
6.3	<p><i>Friends of Churchill Island Society (FOCIS) Christine Grayden</i></p> <p>The Chair thanked Christine for her work at Churchill Island thanked the CEO for Christine's reappointment. Christine acknowledged volunteers who have assisted her including post graduate student Sandra from Melbourne.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from Museums Victoria visited Churchill Island last week to undertake an inspection as part of the accreditation process. Results were positive with only minor items requiring follow up. • FOCIS purchased 150 concrete pavers to be installed under farm machinery and the old wheel collection to protect them from ground moisture. • A new hall runner for the Amess House was purchased from the National Wool Museum in Geelong who made the runner especially for Churchill Island using an old loom now used to make rugs. • Greg Ryan - horticulturalist (new to the Churchill Island team) is currently performing garden restoration in line with the Churchill Island Garden Management Plan. Many vast changes have already taken place including heavy pruning. International student volunteers helped to revamp the front garden. • The display stands in the visitor centre will soon be replaced due to the expansion in retail. The old stands will be utilised at another museum. • George the cockatoo has new toy hanging toy. • There are several clutches of Cape Barren goslings roaming the grounds and beyond, with one adult pair nesting at Fishers. <p>The Chair updated that the FOCIS Executive Committee had been appointed at the group's recent AGM. <u>President:</u> Stella Axarlis <u>Vice President:</u> Ruth O'Dea <u>Secretary/Public Officer:</u> Christine Grayden</p> <p>NOTE: FOCIS working bees - 7th September and 30th November to "spring clean" the Amess house and cottages.</p>	Nil	
6.4	<p><i>Barb Martin Bushbank (Jan Fleming)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bushbank will celebrate its 15th year at a BBQ on Wednesday 4th September, 12pm at the Bushbank *bring a salad. 	Nil	
6.5	<p><i>Planning Amendment C132 (Rezoning of Phillip Island Golf Course)</i></p> <p>Margaret Hancock raised that increased representation and input by the Nature Parks at the recent Independent Planning Panel hearing regarding Planning Amendment C132 may have been beneficial and of support to local Phillip Island groups and community members who attended. Other committee members concurred.</p> <p>Response: The Chair advised that she would discuss the feedback with the CEO.</p> <p>Comment: Anne Davie advised that the detailed submission by the Nature Parks was received by the Chair at the hearing with a positive response.</p>	Chair to discuss with CEO.	
6.6	<p><i>Welcome Kevin Love (Stephen Davie)</i></p> <p>Stephen Davie welcomed new Board member Kevin Love and congratulated Stella Axarlis on her milestone of 10 years' service as a Board member at Phillip Island Nature Parks.</p> <p>The Board vacancy resulted from the resignation of Ralph Booth in April this year.</p>		
7	Other Business		
7.1	Nil.		
8	Next Meeting		
8.1	The meeting was closed at 5:33pm. The next committee meeting will be on Thursday 31st October 2013.		