

Community Advisory Committee Minutes



Meeting held: 4:00pm, Thursday 26th February 2015 at the Education Pod (Summerlands)

1	Welcome & Apologies		
1.1	<p>The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:05pm, acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land and paid respect to the elders past and present.</p> <p>Attendance / Apologies are listed below:</p> <p>Environment Committee: Andrew Paxton (CHAIR and Board), Gavan O'Connor, Penny Manning, Mike Cleeland, Deirdre Griepsma, Anne Davie.</p> <p>Community Committee: Stella Axarlis (CHAIR and Board), Stephen Davie (Board), Patsy Hunt, Margaret Hancock, Christine Grayden, Pauline Taylor, Jane Daly, Deborah Holland, Stephen Fullarton.</p> <p>In Attendance: Kevin Love (Board), Dr Catherin Bull (Board), Matthew Jackson (Chief Executive Officer), Jarvis Weston (Ranger in Charge), Hayley Smith (Executive Assistant - Minutes).</p> <p>Apologies: Dr Roz Jessop (Environment Manager), Bessie Tyers, Tania Maddigan, Tim Ealey, Joel Geoghegan, Michael Whelan, Jan Fleming, Paul Smith, Gill Hardman, Cr. Kimberley Brown.</p>		
2	Minutes from Previous Meetings	ACTIONS	STATUS
2.1	<p>The minutes of the Community Advisory Committee meeting held 18th December 2014 were accepted as a true and correct record.</p> <p>Moved: Margaret Hancock Second: Penny Manning</p>		
3	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	ACTIONS	STATUS
3.1	<p><u>New Nature Parks Eco-Boat Tour</u> RAISED DECEMBER 2014</p> <p>Comment: It was suggested that advisory committee members could take the tour.</p> <p>ACTION: The CEO agreed and advised that he would organise this with the Marketing Manager.</p>	<p>Advisory committee members to be invited to attend the Eco Boat tour.</p>	<p>Complete (agreed). Instructions on how to book will be provided at the April meeting.</p>
3.2	<p><u>No Smoking Signage at KCC</u> RAISED DECEMBER 2014</p> <p>Comment: Patsy Hunt requested more "No Smoking" signs at the Koala Conservation Centre and commented that she had recently notice more people smoking there as there are not as many signs now.</p> <p>ACTION: CEO to follow up.</p>	<p>CEO to follow up regarding 'No Smoking' signage.</p>	<p>Complete.</p> <p>Signage at KCC has been discussed on-site with Patsy.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Media around Feral Cats</u> RAISED DECEMBER 2014</p> <p>Comment: Deborah Holland suggested media over the summer season regarding damage caused by feral cats to target holiday makers.</p> <p>ACTION: CEO to discuss with Communications Executive.</p> <p>UPDATE (February): PR is in progress, Ranger in Charge to discuss during Environment Report.</p> <p>UPDATE (April): Rangers conduct ongoing cat trapping programs adjacent to residential areas in conjunction with Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC), and as a part of this process communicate with and educate residents and visitors about the damage caused by feral and stray cats. A cat sub-committee of the BCSC Domestic Animal Management Advisory Committee has also been recently established to implement cat confinement and cat compulsory programs".</p>	<p>Possible media over the summer period regarding damage caused by feral cats.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>See left.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Presentation: Country Fire Authority (CFA) Bass Coast</u> RAISED DECEMBER 2014</p>	<p>Executive Assistant to email CFA presentation to</p>	<p>Complete.</p> <p>Distributed to</p>

	Scott Hamilton (Brigade Support Officer) and Damien O'Connor (Group Officer – Bass Coast Group of Fire Brigades) provided a presentation to the group.	committee members including information on fire ratings.	committee members via email on 26.2.15
3.5	<p><u>Churchill Island Café</u> RAISED DECEMBER 2014</p> <p>Comment: Patsy Hunt raised that she had recently taken friends to Churchill Island Café and that there were dirty, uncleared tables even though it was not busy, that the food was overpriced and that the service was slow. Other committee members stated that they had a similar experience and would not go back. Christine Grayden discussed negative comments on Trip advisor (although at times, there has been positive feedback).</p> <p>Response: The CEO advised that he would pass on the feedback to the café operator (who leases the café from the Nature Parks).</p>	CEO to pass on negative feedback from committee members regarding Churchill Island Café.	Complete.
4	Phillip Island Nature Parks Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
4.1	<p><u>General Nature Parks Update - CEO:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YTD visitation for February is up 39,971 or 6.5% compared to last year. YTD International visitation is up 40,264 (11.4%) and domestic visitation is down 563 (or -0.2%) compared to last year. Chinese visitation has been extremely positive over February (up 20%). There were around 3,000 visitors per night at the Parade over the Chinese New Year period. <p>Comment: Pauline Taylor enquired regarding capacity at the Penguin Parade.</p> <p>Response: The CEO advised that capacity for visitors at the Penguin Parade is 3,800.</p> <p>Comment: Gavan O'Connor enquired regarding declining domestic visitation.</p> <p>Response: The CEO advised that the decline is in line with domestic tourism trends and other Victorian tourism attractions state-wide. Bad weather over peak period also contributed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Indonesian incentive group of 4,200 from Tupperware visited the Penguin Parade over February, also boosting international visitation. The group visit was staggered over 4 days. The new Nature Parks' Eco-Boat Tour is in its third month of operation and doing well. Construction of the new Penguins Plus is currently out to tender. Penguins Plus will close after Easter and reopen in November 2015. A visual summary of the new Penguins Plus and Nobbies redevelopment will be presented at the next meeting (April). The draft Churchill Island Conservation Plan is currently being prepared for review by the Board at its March meeting. Thank you to Christine Grayden for her assistance during the development process. The Phillip Island Nature Parks 2015 Community Open Day will be held on Sunday 1 March 2015. At its February meeting the Board discussed budget parameters for 2015-16, these included progressing the key area plan (KAP) for Oswin Roberts, progressing actions of the South and North Coast KAP with focus on Cape Woolamai, and delivering key projects. The current Churchill Island Cafe lease term is ending and the Board has decided not to retender the lease to the private sector but to maintain the café internally as a Nature Parks Café. The Nature Parks is currently seeking a Food and Beverage Manager. <p>Gavan O'Connor (Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Coastcare Group) tabled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Coastcare Group Vegetation Management Plan Review and Works Calendar (January 2015, Gidja Walker) including appendix highlighting priority weeds for management. Phillip Island Coastcare Leadership Program 2015 Draft Agenda. The Coastcare Leadership Program 2015 will be held at the Koala Conservation Centre on 2-3 May 2015. 		
4.2	<p><u>Environment Update – Environment Manager:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 4WD vehicle was driven down onto the beach at Flynn's Beach after vandals destroyed the gate. Thanks to Victoria Police for arranging removal of the stolen vehicle. Police also conducted a missing persons search at Flynn's Beach (separate incident) in early February, the search was unsuccessful. 		

	<p>Comment: Jane Daly enquired regarding a recent altercation at the Nature Parks between two groups of visitors.</p> <p>Response: The Ranger In Charge confirmed that the incident did occur and that Police were called and assisted on the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs off-leash on beaches remains an issue over peak periods. The issue is problem state-wide. <p>Comment: Patsy Hunt commented on the increased ranger presence this year, including Council ranger. Other members commented they had observed high numbers of off-leash dogs on beaches over summer.</p> <p>Comment: Gavan O'Connor enquired regarding policing of access to hooded plover areas.</p> <p>Response: The Ranger in Charge advised that policing is increased when there are chicks.</p> <p>Comment: Margaret Hancock enquired regarding the degree of the offenses as above and prosecutions and commented that there should be more media around this including 'name and shame'. Patsy Hunt commented that it seems people don't care and haven't heard of anyone being fined so awareness should be increased.</p> <p>Response: The Ranger in Charge advised that fines and infringement notices are imposed (it is not a court offense).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the busy period rangers have followed up on small weed management projects including focus on kikuyu and spiny rush (a new and emerging weed). <p>Comment: Mike Cleeland asked whether Nature Parks' staff are involved in the upcoming Weed Science Society upcoming (state) conference in Cowes.</p> <p>Response: The Ranger in Charge advised that some staff will attend but the Nature Parks is not presenting.</p> <p>Comment: Anne Davie enquired regarding public sessions. Mike advised that Matt Stephenson (Landcare) is the best contact for enquiries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Parks' rangers dispatched a large male fox at Cleelands Farm in mid-February. This was achieved through the use of the Nature Parks scent dogs who detected tracks and scats which assisted ranger to dispatch the fox during a day hunt. It is anticipated that less than 10 foxes remain on Phillip Island. • 64 feral cats have been removed for the Nature Parks so far this financial year. <p>Comment: Jane Daly enquired regarding a letter by a community member supporting a curfew for domestic cats.</p> <p>Response: The Ranger in Charge advised that the Nature Parks is represented on Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan committee and that a cat curfew is an objective of the plan. The Nature Parks will table the letter at the next DAMP meeting. Also in discussion by the committee is 24hr cat confinement and compulsory de-sexing for domestic cats.</p> <p>Comment: The Chair enquired as to whether there are statistics on how many domestic cats are abandoned on Phillip Island by people. Response: None available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature Parks has contributed comments toward Bass Coast Landcare Network's draft Rabbit Strategy which is currently being finalised. • 6 hooded plovers fledged this season. Currently there are still chicks at Woolshed Bight and Hutchison Beach. <p>Comment: Penny Manning enquired regarding the chicks and how close they are to fledging.</p> <p>Response: Woolshed Bight: very young. Hutchison Beach: very close to fledging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The garden at the front of the KCC visitor centre has been refreshed and a sprinkler system has recently been installed which will protect the boardwalks and visitor centre in the event of fire. This will also provide refuge areas for koalas and safe exit for visitors. <p>Comment: Pauline Taylor asked if rare plants in the garden could be labelled including brief information about the plant.</p> <p>Response: Agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre staff attended 171 rescue calls over December-January and are currently preparing for the upcoming shearwater season. • Planning around the upcoming ecological burns at KCC is in progress. Burning will commence after the fire danger period. • New Nature Parks signage has been installed at Oswin Roberts and Mcilwraith Road. Signage at Swan Lake and at beaches will be installed over the next month. <p>Comment: Mike Cleeland advised of an old sign at Cape Woolamai quarry (regarding use of water) that needs replacing.</p> <p>Response: Noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment: Mike Cleeland advised that the 2015 'Bunny Boiler' event will be held at Cape Kitchen on Friday, March 27 (annual fundraising dinner for the Phillip Island Landcare Group). 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment: Deborah Holland discussed negative feedback she had received regarding visitor behaviour at Parade (rudeness). Response: There was discussion among members around cultural issues and the CEO advised that Nature Parks liaises with tour operators staff try to address these issues where possible. Comment: Steve Fullarton enquired regarding this year's statistics on short-tailed shearwater numbers. Comment: Christine Grayden enquired regarding the effectiveness of the new artificial shearwater burrows (boxes). Response: (ACTION) The Ranger in Charge to follow up with Research. 	Ranger in Charge to follow up regarding data available on 2015 shearwater numbers and boxes.	
	The committees separated to their own meetings.		
5	Community Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (TORs)	ACTIONS	STATUS
5.1	<p>The terms of reference for the Advisory Committees were last reviewed and approved by the Board in April 2013. They are scheduled for review every two years.</p> <p>Committee members were provided with a hard copy of the Community Advisory Committee TORs. This was a revised version with minor changes to terminology, grammar amendments and 'suggested agenda' to be consistent with the regular agenda.</p> <p>Members were asked to provide feedback regarding these changes and any further recommended changes within a timeframe of 2 weeks to the Executive Assistant. After two weeks the feedback would be collated, considered and incorporated into a revised version for approval by the Board at the March 2015 Board meeting.</p> <p>As per the current terms of reference, members were also asked to advise the Chair in writing if they wish to continue their membership on the committee for a further term. Members were also invited to provide any recommendations regarding other organisations who may like to be represented on the committee.</p>	<p>Executive Assistant to circulate the revised TORs to members via email for feedback.</p> <p>Committee members to advise in writing if they wish to continue their membership for a further term.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
6	Matters Arising and Advice from Committee Members:	ACTIONS	STATUS
6.1	<p><u>Phillip Island Nature Parks Business Case</u></p> <p>Comment: Deborah Holland enquired regarding progress on the Nature Parks' business case. She also asked if there were opportunities to experience penguins underwater. Response: The CEO advised that the he is awaiting a briefing with the new Minister for Environment regarding the business case and that the new Penguins Plus will include an underground 'bunker style' viewing experience.</p>		
6.2	<p><u>Signage about Snakes</u></p> <p>Comment: Steve Davie suggested warning signage at Oswin Roberts regarding snakes and what to do if you see one. Margaret Hancock recommended the wording used in signage at Cranbourne Gardens "please remember that snakes share these paths".</p>		
6.3	<p><u>Swan Lake Viewing Areas (shutters)</u></p> <p>Comment: Steve Davie suggested instructions for visitors to Swan Lake regarding the shutters in viewing areas (whether they should be left open or closed). Members agreed. Response: (ACTION) The CEO advised that he would follow up (the shutters should remain closed as birds live inside).</p>	CEO to follow up regarding instructions for shutters in viewing areas at Swan Lake.	
6.4	<p><u>Chinese Visitation</u></p> <p>Comment: Steve Fullarton suggested continued pressure on Government regarding the importance of Phillip Island and the Penguin Parade to Chinese tourism to Victoria.</p>		
6.5	<p><u>Radio Interview – Rebecca McIntosh</u></p> <p>Comment: Anne Davie acknowledged Dr Rebecca McIntosh (Research team) regarding her recent radio interview on seals.</p>		
6.6	<p><u>Barb Martin Bush Bank (Anne Davie)</u></p> <p>Comment: The Bush Bank continues working with local community groups including Landcare and Friends of the Koalas. Volunteer numbers are good (currently around 20). Anne highlighted positive social and environmental outcomes.</p>		

6.7	<p><u>Shearwater Festival (Anne Davie)</u></p> <p>Comment: The 2015 Shearwater Festival will be held over 2 days (21 and 22 November). This years' theme is "Theatre".</p>		
6.8	<p><u>2015 Bass Coast Citizen of the Year</u></p> <p>Comment: Anne Davie acknowledged Jeff Nottle who was awarded 2015 Bass Coast Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Awards on 24 January. Mr Nottle is currently Chair of the Preserve Western Port Action Group, which is a sub group of the Phillip Island Conservation Society.</p>		
6.9	<p><u>Phillip Island National Surfing Reserve</u></p> <p>Comment: Steve Fullarton reported that a National Surfing Reserve sign on Phillip Island had been vandalised recently and that the working group is progressing its repair.</p>		
6.10	<p><u>Friends of the Koalas (Patsy Hunt)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of the Koalas discussed at its recent meeting and supported the new Friends of the Koalas signage at Oswin Roberts Reserve. • At the February Habitat Day members the group constructed 10 revegetation coups (4 square meters in size) in Oswin Roberts Reserve as part of the revegetation project for the grant received last year (Communities for Nature Grants Program). 		
6.11	<p><u>Noise and effects on wildlife</u></p> <p>Comment: Patsy Hunt commented that fireworks at a recent event held at the Phillip Island Circuit were loud and raised concern for penguins. Some members commented that the duration of the fireworks was long.</p> <p>Patsy also raised concern regarding the rig currently located in Westernport (near Cowes) including noise and proximity to Conservation Hill (including landing of helicopters on the rig) and the rig being outside its aloud boundary. Jane Daly suggested written correspondence to the operators and the local paper. Steve Fullarton highlighted that wind direction can affect the noise being heard.</p>		
6.12	<p><u>Caravan Park Proposal – Forest Caves</u></p> <p>Comment: Pauline Taylor raised environmental concerns regarding the above proposal and asked if the Nature Parks had made a submission to Council.</p> <p>Response: The CEO advised that the Nature Parks had provided detailed comments regarding flora and fauna to DEPI who then do a detailed submission to Council.</p>		
6.13	<p><u>Coastcare Groups</u></p> <p>Comment: Christine Grayden recommended Red Rocks Coastcare and Saltwater Creek Coastcare (new group) volunteer groups and suggested liaison by the Nature Parks.</p> <p>Response: (ACTION) CEO to follow up with Ranger in Charge regarding contact with the above groups (contact may already be established as Nature Parks already liaises and works with many volunteer groups on Phillip Island).</p>	CEO to follow up regarding contact with Red Rocks Coastcare and Saltwater Creek Coastcare groups.	
6.14	<p><u>Friends of Churchill Island Society – FOCIS (Christine Grayden)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lovell Chen presented to FOCIS regarding the Draft Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan which was much appreciated by members. • For the upcoming Nature Parks Community Open Day there will be a display on Harry Jenkins who owned Churchill Island from 1936–1963. Six FOCIS volunteers will assist on the day including with old time and kids activities for visitors. • The 2016 Museums Victoria Conference will be held at Phillip Island on 5-7 October 2016. Nature Parks will host the conference (Council is also a partner). Around 250 people are expected to attend. 		
6.15	<p><u>Phillip Island Historical Society (Christine Grayden)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Grayden discussed a recent oral history project for 3mFm radio. The program includes a series (16) of local focus sessions every Saturday between 1-2pm. A talk on Phillip Island, San Remo and Churchill Island has been prepared for the 		

	<p>program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The thesis on Churchill Island by student Rebecca Saunders is due in March 2015. <p>Christine raised that 2016 is the 40th anniversary of Government ownership of Churchill Island and suggested an event such as an open day.</p> <p>Response: The CEO advised that 2016 is also the 20th year for Phillip Island Nature Parks and that the two milestones can be celebrated together.</p>		
6.16	<p><i>Phillip Island Circuit Superbikes Anniversary Event</i></p> <p>Comment: Steve Fullarton acknowledged the Phillip Island Circuit regarding the free community event provided during anniversary celebrations for the Wold Superbikes at Phillip Island.</p>		
7	Other Business		
7.1	Nil.		
8	Next Meeting		
8.1	<p>The Chair and CEO thanked committee members for their contribution.</p> <p>Next regular meeting: Thursday 30th April 2015, 4:00pm at the Education Pod.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 5:18pm.</p>		