



COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting held at 5:00pm, Thursday 20 December 2018 at the Education Pod.

1	Welcome and Apologies		
1.1	<p>The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:05pm. Attendance / Apologies are listed below. Present: Michaela Salvato (CHAIR and Board), Stephen Davie, Randall Joseph, Gareth Kennedy, Anne Davie, Penny Manning, Linda Cuttriss, Phil Wright, Pauleen Boulton, Jason Cameron, Gil Smith, Jan Fleming, Derek Hibbert, Ian McFee, Phil Dressing, Mike Cleeland, Deborah Holland, Damien O'Connor, Jeff Nottle, Jill Sunderland. In Attendance: Liz Stinson (Board Chair), Kevin Love (Board), Shelley Lavender (Board), Catherine Basterfield (CEO), Jessica McKelson (Manager-Conservation), Hayley Smith (Executive Assistant - Minutes). Apologies: Jane Foley (Board), Cr. Pamela Rothfield, Matt Synan, Gea Lovell, Jane Daly, Christine Grayden, Patsy Hunt, Kellie Nichols, Cheryl Overton, Mark Donaldson, Gavan O'Connor. The Chair advised that Ian Mc Fee was now the nominated representative for the Better Beef Group, replacing Tracey Jeffery.</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	A wording change was requested under Item 7 (7.1, under Community). The minutes of the Community and Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 27 September 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record, as amended.		
4	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	ACTIONS	STATUS
4.1	<p>MONTH RAISED: JUNE 2018 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). Update DECEMBER 2018: The Manager-Conservation advised that the PHD student who undertook the study had recently graduated and the findings would be published soon. A brief summary was provided including that around 300 wallabies (mostly males) were killed each year, mostly along tree-lined roads in areas with higher speed limits. Information on population numbers was not available at this time.</p>	Findings of the study on wallabies to be made available through the Conservation News report.	In progress.
4.2	<p>MONTH RAISED: SEPTEMBER 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A walk-through the Penguin Parade Redevelopment site for committee members would hopefully be possible around the time of the next meeting. 	Site walk-through opportunity to be made available for committee members (anticipated December 2018 Meeting).	Complete. Walk-through undertaken prior to the December Meeting.
4.3	<p>MONTH RAISED: SEPTEMBER 2018</p> <p>There is concern regarding Cape Barren Geese pecking around Fishers Wetland in areas where weed spraying had been undertaken. Management advised that it would look into it (ACTION).</p>	Management to report back on the possible impacts of weed spraying on wildlife.	In progress.

4.4	<p><u>Cape Barren Geese Working Group</u></p> <p>The committee noted that following a workshop attended by key stakeholders, a working group had been formed to address concerns in the community relating to the impacts of Cape Barren Geese on farmland pastures. Initial discussions had included the possibility of a study to gather information to present to DELWP to inform future decision making.</p>		
4.5	<p>It was noted that feedback from committee meetings was noted by the Board and Management and (if appropriate) the Nature Parks would assist or become involved by either actioning or passing on feedback, depending on the nature of the topic.</p>		
5	Phillip Island Nature Parks Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
5.1	<p><u>Board Update</u></p> <p>The Chair shared key points following the Nature Parks Board Meeting which was held earlier in the day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Penguin Parade Redevelopment was progressing well with the building now at 'lock up' stage and car parks open for the Christmas period. Anticipated opening date: June-Aug. • The 30-yr Conservation Vision was in the finalisation stages. It was noted that individual personalised responses would be provided to those who submitted. The launch would be held early 2019. The Chair commended the team and thanked all who participated in development of the plan. • Fit-out for the new Cowes Office would commence in the New Year with the project currently out to tender. • The Board received the annual report from the Animal Ethics Committee and noted Kath Handasyde's retirement from the committee. • Preparations were in progress for operations over the Christmas and Chinese New Year peak periods. 		
5.2	<p><u>Conservation Update</u></p> <p>The Manager-Conservation provided a verbal summary of highlights from the November 2018 Conservation News which had been circulated to committee members and provided in hard copy at the meeting. Committee members provided positive feedback on the document. Committee members also noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The arrival of a new koala at the Koala Conservation Centre "Kevin". It is hoped that the koala (from Moonlit Sanctuary, originally South Australia) will breed with the existing female and improve genetic diversity in the group. • Rangers were undertaking possum-proofing and tree-banding, with the trees responding well. Possum attendance was being monitored. • Hooded Plovers Update (20/12/18): 8 chicks hatched (3 nests) including new hatchings at Anchorage Road and at Smiths Beach. There were a total of 7 active nests. <p>There was feedback that more action was needed on domestic cat management by Council.</p>		
6	CFA Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
6.1	<p>Damien O'Connor, Group Officer CFA Bass Coast Group provided a CFA Summer Update presentation to the committee. Members noted that there was a currently a substantial amount of fuel amount due to lower rainfall and details of the recent exercise undertaken with the Nature Parks including learnings.</p> <p>It was raised that 'fire bugs' were an ongoing issue over the peak period as were campers along the coastline who lack understanding of the dangers of lighting fires. Damien advised that burning off was also an issue and that police were pro-active in mitigating known fire-bug offenders. Members noted advice to all 000 to report any issues as it is a chargeable offense.</p> <p>On behalf of the CFA, Damien thanked the Nature Parks team noting the positive collaboration and relationship between the organisations.</p>		
7	Matters Arising and Advice from Committee Members	ACTIONS	STATUS
7.1	<p><u>Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community engagement by the Nature Parks was suggested, especially with neighbours/farmers in relation to wildlife issues and communicating fire plans. Management discussed initial actions taken in this area including expanding the Community and Environment Advisory Committee, establishing a Farmers Working Group, and upcoming recruitment of an additional communications resource and development of a strategy which the committee would have opportunity to provide input into. There was positive feedback in relation to actions relating to geese issues. • More notice and involvement by adjoining land owners regarding ecological burns was urged. It was noted that in some cases 	<p>Conservation Team officer to discuss fire communications further</p>	

<p>more notice was not possible and could not be time specific (due to burns being weather dependant) and warnings were via direct communication including door knocking. ACTION: Conservation Team officer to discuss fire communications further with committee member. CFA response was that this decision sits with PINP and CFA and can be unplanned and is condition based, so consultation at times may not give time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Island Entrance Project was progressing well and further information would be available soon. • Landcare and Sea Shepherd visited the Island recently and reported high levels of micro-plastic along beaches. • Stronger encouragement/promotion of reusable items the Penguin Parade (especially coffee cups) was suggested. <p>Committee members noted the Board's position not to participate in Phillip Island's 150th celebrations due to sensitivities in the community.</p> <p><u>Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study Community Reference Group</u></p> <p>It was raised that many dogs were seen off-leash at the beach west of 'Express' and it was suggested that dogs be banned due to nesting Hooded Plovers. Restricting access to the area of Smiths Beach where Hooded Plovers nest was also suggested. Management advised that Council and Nature Parks would soon undertake community consultation on some proposed changes to dog regulations which did not include bans, but the suggestions could be put forward during the consultation/feedback process.</p> <p>A need to reduce cars on Phillip Island and link pathways was raised. Formation of a subcommittee to implement a pathways plan was suggested with attendance by all key partners (VicRoads, Council, Nature Parks, land owners). Identification of land of high environmental value was also highlighted as a priority. Management discussed issues around private land and agreed to sit on a Working Group contingent on agreement by Bass Coast Shire Council. ACTION: CEO to discuss with Council and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Bass Coast Shire Council</u></p> <p>Council were busy preparing coastal areas for the summer peak, including maintenance of access points and fire preparedness. Other work included community event coordination/permits and Hooded Plover protection. Council acknowledged the Nature Parks team for its patrols and community engagement on beaches. Volunteer plans were in development with coast action groups for the next season including ordering plants. Information on waste collection services for the summer peak was available at Councils' website: http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/waste</p> <p><u>Smiths Beachcombers Association (*also representing the interests of the Totally Renewable Phillip Island Working Group).</u></p> <p>It was raised that following development of its technology in Australia (San Remo), Atlantis Resources had built the largest and most powerful tidal power energy plant in Scotland. A committee member commented that the technology (tide power generator in Newhaven) was still there and should be removed as the trial period had expired.</p> <p><u>BetterBeef Group</u></p> <p>It was reported that a local landowner had success eradicating boxthorn, however trees in the vicinity were not recovering well.</p> <p><u>BirdLife Bass Coast</u></p> <p>It was reported that 95 bird species were identified at the 'Twitchathon' event held on the Island in November and the South Australian Koel is now an annual visitor to Phillip Island.</p> <p><u>Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve:</u></p> <p>It was reported that a peacock recently visited the reserve (unknown origin) and the group had a weeding day at the reserve recently. Overall the area was doing well. ACTION: Management to investigate if the peacock can be removed back to Churchill Island.</p> <p><u>Ventnor Coast Care:</u></p> <p>It was reported that the group was preparing for revegetation work with 9 areas to be revegetated over the coming year.</p> <p><u>Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICS celebrated its 50th anniversary on 30 September which was well attended. • The PICS book Women in Conservation was recently nominated for the Victorian Community History Awards. • PICS presented to the VCAT Planning Panel on Amendment C151 regarding the Cowes Activity Plan (Forest Caves matter is 	<p>with committee member (offline).</p> <p>CEO to discuss with Council the suggestion of a subcommittee to progress a Pathways Plan for Phillip Island and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Management to investigate if the peacock can be removed back to Churchill Island.</p>
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	<p>scheduled next year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICS was represented in consultation for the Nature Parks 30-year Conservation Plan and Council's Environment Group. • PICS participated in the street parade for Phillip Island's 150th celebrations. • PICS made a submission regarding the Cribb Point Gas Import Pipeline Project and recommends representation by the Nature Parks and Council on the Technical Reference Group. There are concerns regarding industrialisation in Westernport. <p><u>Preserve Westernport Action Group (PWAG):</u> PWAG concerns regarding the Cribb Point Gas Project include water cooling (around 450 million litres per day) and environmental impacts affecting endangered species. PWAG also recommends representation by the Nature Parks and Council on the Technical Reference Group for the project. Management confirmed its support for Nature Parks' representation on the reference group.</p> <p><u>Phillip Island Landcare:</u> 26,000 trees were planted last season (at least 20,000 to be planted this season). There is concern regarding die-back of swamp gums (particularly along McFees Road and in Inverloch) and that it may spread further onto the Island. A steering committee will be formed to address the issue and opportunities to undertake research will be investigated (student). Comments and feedback from committee members is welcome.</p> <p><u>Newhaven Coast Action:</u> It was raised that rabbits were an ongoing issue in the Newhaven area, particularly along the marina part of foreshore.</p> <p><u>Destination Phillip Island:</u> Around 100,000 copies of the 2019 Official Visitor Guide have been provided to visitors. Key messaging is focused on wildlife and travel safety which are also promoted through key partners such as hotels and car hire locations.</p> <p><u>Westernport Water:</u> Water levels were at 70% following recent rainfall. A positive position overall. A common misunderstanding regarding the % level indicator was clarified, noting that in 2013 Westernport Water doubled its storage capacity to a 2-year supply. It was noted that access to Melbourne Water was also possible if needed (2 years supply).</p>		
8	Other Business		
8.1	There was no other business.		
9	Next Meeting		
9.1	Committee Members noted the date of the next meeting (Thursday 28 March 2019) which had been changed from the original date of 27 February. ACTION: Executive Assistant to notify members.	Executive Assistant to notify members regarding the change of meeting date.	Complete.
10	Meeting Close		
10.1	The Chair thanked committee members for their participation and contribution and Management and staff for their support. The meeting was closed at 6:43pm.		