



# Central Coastal BOARD



## About the Bays

The Newsletter of the Central Coastal Board

Edition 52 - April 2009

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Coastal Issues in Port Phillip and Western Port

### FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to Edition 52 of the Central Coastal Board's *About the Bays* newsletter. We have decided to trial a 'new,' shorter version of the newsletter so that we are able to provide more frequent news and advice about opportunities to participate in coastal management in our region. Although I would love to see this newsletter become weekly, we just do not have the capacity at this time, so we have decided to double the frequency and provide you with a monthly update about all that is happening about the bays.

Last week saw two important events in our region. The most noteworthy was the celebration of the 10th annual Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence. Jointly hosted by the Victorian Coastal Council and Coast Action/Coastcare, this year's awards attracted 38 finalists across 11 different categories.

Prior to the awards event the Victorian Coastal Council held a forum which focused on climate change adaptation and population growth pressures along the coast which of course are of particular relevance to the Central Region, where the vast majority of the state's population growth occurs. As a significantly urbanised coast, the Central Region needs to focus on the vulnerability and exposure of assets in the two bays, and ensure that the intense year-round use of the coast is carefully managed.

I hope you find this edition and our more frequent circulation of *About the Bays* useful.

*Liz Johnstone  
Chair*

### CURRENT PROJECTS

The CCB is currently focusing on hosting information sessions and events to broaden understanding of the Victorian Coastal Strategy and our current range of projects with a view to broaden the number of interested people and organisations involved.

#### **The Victorian Coastal Strategy – What is it and can we implement it?**

The CCB invites you to attend an informative session on the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS). The VCS is the State Government's policy commitment for the coast. The session is an opportunity to hear from and engage with key industry figures and policy makers

on the strategy, the key government agencies responses and the challenges of implementation.

#### **Geelong Info Session**

**Venue:** Deakin University Waterfront Campus, Percy Baxter Lecture Theatre, 1 Gheringhap St, Geelong

**Date:** Tuesday 5 May

**Time:** 4-6 pm, Light refreshments provided

**RSVP:** To Lyndel McLennan by Friday 1 May, phone 8627 4724 or [lyndel.mclennan@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:lyndel.mclennan@dse.vic.gov.au)

#### **Melbourne Info Session**

**Venue:** ACMI Cinema 1 - Federation Square

**Date:** Thursday 21 May

**Time:** 4-6 pm, Light refreshments provided

**RSVP:** To Lyndel McLennan by Tuesday 19 May, phone 8627 4724 or [lyndel.mclennan@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:lyndel.mclennan@dse.vic.gov.au)

#### **Western Port Welcomes Waterbirds Information Sessions**

The importance of Western Port as a habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterbirds is recognised internationally by its RAMSAR listing. For more than 35 years volunteers have monitored Western Port bird numbers and with recent data noting an apparent decline, more information and data is clearly needed. The new *Western Port Welcomes Waterbirds* project, funded through *Caring for our Country*, aims to address threats to shorebirds and involve land managers and local communities in an effective management program for Western Port.

The CCB is running two information sessions about the project to provide an opportunity to hear from birding experts, put your hand up to participate in future monitoring programs and to provide feedback to the project team.

#### **Hastings**

**Date:** Thursday 7 May

**Venue:** Dolphin Research Centre, Western Port Marina, Mullet St,

**Melways Ref:** Map 154 K12

**Time:** 1-3 pm

#### **Phillip Island Nature Park (PINP)**

**Date:** Friday 8 May

**Venue:** PINP Education Pod, 995 Venter Road, Phillip Island

**Melways Ref:** Map 633 6D

**Time:** 10 am - 12 pm

**RSVP:** To Lyndel McLennan by Tuesday 5 May, phone 8627 4724 or [lyndel.mclennan@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:lyndel.mclennan@dse.vic.gov.au)

### Community Capacity Building Forum

The Community Capacity Building Forum aims to highlight Western Port's key biodiversity assets, the current state of knowledge, and the work being undertaken at present. The forum will assist information sharing and collaboration, strengthening partnerships between research institutions, key agencies and the community.

The Community Capacity Building Forum is scheduled for Wednesday 3 June 2009.

**Venue:** Lady Nelson Room, Western Port Marina, Hastings

**Time:** 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

### Central Boating Coastal Action Plan (BCAP)

The CCB collected information through a survey in late 2008 from agencies responsible for implementing the BCAP's Region Wide Implementation Actions. The survey consisted of two parts. The first part addressed the current status of the Region Wide Implementation Actions. The second part focused on confirming details of investment in facilities.

Responses from the survey were used to develop the 2008 Progress Report for the BCAP Implementation Committee. This report informs government, the boating community and other key stakeholders on how the implementation of the BCAP has progressed to date. The CCB hopes to publish the report in May which will form the basis of the Committee's annual work program. Watch out for the report recommendations in the next edition of *About the Bays*.

## AROUND THE COAST

### VCC Forum

The Victorian Coastal Council recently hosted a fully subscribed forum to examine significant coastal issues that were identified in the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008*. Scientists, policymakers and a panel of experts discussed the challenges of climate change and population growth for the Victorian coast.

The forum was well attended by coastal managers, practitioners, peak body representatives, policy and decision makers and members of the public. It provided a useful opportunity to develop a common understanding of the strategy itself and the pressures facing coastal managers in a national and international context.

### Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2009

Victoria celebrated a decade of coastal achievements with the announcement of winners of the 10th annual Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence.

Presenting the awards, Environment and Climate Change Minister, Gavin Jennings, said the diverse mix of entries confirmed strong and ongoing community interest in protecting Victoria's coast.

'The annual Victorian Coastal Awards are an ideal way to highlight the excellent work that's underway in partnership between the government, its agencies and the Victorian community,' he said.

He also commented that many of the winning projects work on very modest means.

The 2009 Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence winners were:

- Friends of Chinamans Creek for Biodiversity and Conservation
- Boating Industry Association for Education
- Frankston City Council for Coastal Culture
- Isla Fitzridge - Victorian Marine Science Consortium - Post-graduate award
- Geelong City Council, the Municipal Association of Victoria, Council on The Aging, David Lock Associates and the Communities of Indented Head, Portarlington and St Leonards for Coastal Planning
- Westernport Greenhouse Alliance for Innovation
- Frankston City Council and Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects for Coastal Building and Design
- Bellarine Catchment Network for Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Great Ocean Road Coast Committee for Coastal Management
- Friends of Venus Bay for Community Action
- Duncan Malcolm for Outstanding Individual Achievement. Duncan is the current and inaugural chair of the Gippsland Coastal Board.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Settlements and Infrastructure National Adaptation Research Plan

The National Adaptation Research Plan for Settlements and Infrastructure is running a consultation workshop to develop an Agenda and Issues Paper. This work will be increasingly important to our response in Victoria.

**Date:** Thursday 30 April - Friday 1 May

**Venue:** The Menzies Hotel, 14 Carrington Street, Sydney

*About the Bays* is published on a monthly basis. To receive a copy of the newsletter contact:

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