



Central Coastal BOARD



About the Bays

The Newsletter of the Central Coastal Board

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Coastal Issues in Port Phillip and Western Port

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to Edition 54 of the Central Coastal Board's *About the Bays* newsletter.

Environment and Climate Change Minister, Gavin Jennings, following a state-wide expression of interest process has appointed new Chairs and members to Victoria's three Regional Coastal Boards. A vacancy on the Victorian Coastal Council (VCC) was also filled.

Apparently there was significant interest in positions on the three Regional Coastal Boards and the diverse range of skills and experience among successful applicant's augers well for the coast over the next three years.

The boards play a key role in the strategic planning, coordination and management of our coastal and marine environments and help deliver the actions in the Victorian Coastal Strategy.

I would like to congratulate and welcome both the new and returning members on their appointment to the CCB:

Mr Trevor Abrahams	Mr Gary Martyn
Dr Michaela Dommissie	Ms Amy McDonald
Mr Timothy Hellsten	Mr Richard O'Byrne
Dr Rosalind Jessop	Mr Rodney Warren
Ms Rebecca Koss	Mr Jeff Weir
Dr John Lumb	

I would also like to take this opportunity to warmly thank outgoing members for the time, commitment and energy given to the CCB over the previous term(s).

I was also reappointed as Chair for a further term and I look forward to working with the new Central Coastal Board and the new Chairs, Helen Martin (Gippsland) and Lynette Skilback (Western) on the VCC.

Briefly, I note that Climate Change was on the agenda again last month with the adaptation symposium held in Melbourne on 3-4 June. While uncertainties surround climate science, the message of more rapid and severe change strengthens and is becoming apparent earlier than previously thought likely. The need for effective reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is urgent to avoid the risk of crossing dangerous thresholds in the climate system. Attention is also focusing on the need for adaptation measures. Please see the section on the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper later in this newsletter.

Liz Johnstone
Chair

CURRENT PROJECTS

Western Port Welcomes Waterbirds

Over the past month the project submitted it's first progress report to the Commonwealth. Preliminary data familiarisation and sorting of existing waterbird count data is underway by Birgita Hansen, the project officer employed by Arthur Rylah Institute. Collection of the winter field data went ahead as scheduled under the auspices of Bird Observation and Conservation Australia (BOCA).

If you would like to get involved in this project please email either Birgita.hansen@dse.vic.gov.au or Annette.hatten@dse.vic.gov.au

PREVIOUS EVENTS

Community Capacity Building Forum

Thank you to all who attended this forum held by the CCB in Hastings on Monday 15 June 2009. The forum was well attended by community groups, government agency representatives and research institutes. Consisting of presentations in the morning, a panel session after lunch and a choice of concurrent workshops in the afternoon, the forum allowed participants time for in-depth discussion and information sharing regarding Western Port's key biodiversity assets, the current state of knowledge and work being undertaken.

Building on from this forum a follow-up meeting to discuss outcomes and potential projects for the next round of Caring for our Country funding is being planned for early August. Project recommendations may also be pursued under the 2009 Community Coastcare initiative.

AROUND THE COAST

New CMA Appointments

The Government has appointed new board members to the Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) and Victoria's 10 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) with over 300 people applying to become a member on either the VCMA Board or one of the CMA boards.

The VCMC is the peak advisory body that provides advice on regional priorities for research; encourages co-operation between bodies; and promotes community awareness about catchment management issues.

Victorian Climate Change Green Paper

The *Climate Change Green Paper* was launched by the Premier John Brumby at the *Working with Climate Change Adaptation Symposium* on 3-4 June as part of the development of a new climate change strategy for Victoria to 2020.

Over the coming months the Victorian Government will undertake comprehensive consultation with industry, business, individuals and community groups, to help shape the climate change framework.

For more information or to send a submission see www.climatechange.vic.gov.au

The public consultation period finishes 31 September 2009.

Caring for our Country Grants

The Australian Government has approved more than \$403 million in Caring for our Country project funding to a wide range of organisations in line with the 2009-10 Caring for our Country Business Plan.

Congratulations to the following groups operating in the central coastal region on their successful grant bids for 2009-2010:

Funding recipients	Project title
Mr Keith Wilson	Mt Martha foreshore and associated Balcombe estuary and creek biodiversity and habitat rehabilitation project
Bellarine Catchment Network	Bellarine Ramsar wetlands and coastal hotspots biodiversity protection and enhancement through integrated coastal community engagement.
DSE	Community Coastcare Victoria
Mornington Peninsula Shire	Coastal Banksia regeneration and habitat improvement at Mills Beach, Mornington - Stage 2
Greening Australia (Victoria)	Moolapio: Coastal Protection (Geelong)
Frankston Beach Association Inc	A well-vegetated foredune as an effective barrier against wave attacks on South Frankston Foreshore
Greening Australia (Vic)	Limeburners Link - Saltmarsh Weed Control
Whitecliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Reserve CoM	Indigenous Ecosystem Revegetation and Regeneration
Reef Watch Victoria	Marine monitoring/ community engagement in Victoria's sub-tidal marine environment.

For more information and descriptions of the successful projects see <http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/funded/index.html>

Victorian Strategy for Healthy Rivers, Estuaries and Wetlands (VSHREW)

Over the next 18 months DSE will be developing VSHREW. The next generation of the 2002 Victorian River Health Strategy, VSHEW will seek to integrate the management of rivers, estuaries and wetlands; describe the new adaptive approach to management

under conditions of drought and climate change; focus on the protection of high value sites; and incorporate the directions of recent Government legislation and policy.

The draft strategy is scheduled for release in mid 2010 with a public consultation phase in late 2010 and release of the final strategy in early 2011.

A series of policy papers written by DSE with input from various working groups will inform the draft strategy. The first working group met on 29 July. In all this should be a good outcome for estuarine management.

Coastal Planners Forum

DSE hosted a Coastal Planners Forum on 28 July 2009 at Frankston Yacht Club as an opportunity for practitioners to get together and obtain updates on major projects. Topics included marine renewable energy, integrated coastal zone management, Future Coasts, Community Coastcare, coastal acid sulphate soils, coastal committees of management partnerships and coastal risk mitigation.

Review of Victoria's Marine Safety Laws

The Department of Transport is undertaking a comprehensive review of the *Marine Act 1988*. The review will consider contemporary approaches to marine regulation that have the potential to improve safety outcomes. Four discussion papers have been prepared to assist with understanding the key issues and options for reform.

These discussion papers and details of the regional information sessions being held are available at www.transport.vic.gov.au

The closing date for submissions on the discussion papers is Monday 21 September 2009.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Do you have an upcoming event you would like to include in our next issue of *About the Bays*? A good source of information, this newsletter can be utilised by organisations wishing to notify the public of any coastal events, papers or related news. Please forward to julia.stone@dse.vic.gov.au.

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