



NEPEAN CONSERVATION GROUP INC

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Nepean Conservation Group's Mission is

To lead and inspire the community to appreciate, recognise, conserve, protect and celebrate the natural, cultural, and built heritage of the Nepean Peninsula.

The NCG acknowledges and pays respect to the Bunurong people, the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the Nepean Peninsula.

NCG February Newsheet 2024



Blairgowrie bayside summer, February 2024. Photo Ursula de Jong

Your 2024 committee members are:

Ursula de Jong (President), John Atchison (Vice President), Catherine Walker (Treasurer), Eddy de Jong (Secretary); General committee members: Jane Byrne, Chris Dunn, Lisa Howard, Shannon Richards, John Trewarne

Contacting us: info@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

President: president@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

Membership renewals for 2024 – thank you to the many of you who have renewed your membership for 2024 – the NCG really values your ongoing support. Following the NCG 2024 AGM we will now be following up those who have not yet paid their membership.

Report from the 2024 NCG AGM

On **Saturday 17 February 2024** the NCG Inc held its AGM at Point Nepean National Park, Badcoe Hall, and online – 40 attended. Our guest speaker, Dr Greg Holland, gave an interesting and engaging presentation on Biodiversity, Biolinks and Climate Change – and commended us to work locally. The AGM and presentation were followed by a BYO everything picnic dinner on the Parade grounds – 18

stayed to enjoy some wonderful company and conversation on a beautiful evening. We were delighted by three pods of dolphins which frolicked by!



NCG members and friends enjoying a picnic dinner at PNNP after the AGM. Photo Ursula de Jong

President's 2024 NCG AGM Report summary (refer to ppt)

Dr de Jong delivered the 2024 Present's report, commencing with an acknowledgement of country: I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land upon which we meet: the Bunorong people. I recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. Every day we live, work, and dream on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. I acknowledge their custodianship over eons, over land never ceded and their continuing care of country, sea and sky. I pay my respects to their elders past and present, and any who may be here today.

Dr de Jong set the scene and outlined the jurisdiction of the NCG Inc and reminded all that the Nepean Peninsula is an inspirational place, one with a unique ecology, biodiversity and fragile coast. She read excerpts from the NCG Constitution which dates from 1973. The objects in part state that our group should

- (a) make every effort to ensure that the land and waters of the [Nepean Peninsula] are used with wisdom and foresight and that the competing demands upon them are resolved in the best long-term interests thereof
- (b) foster the conservation of the vegetation and fauna and natural features ...
- (c) cooperate with, or promote cooperation ... among persons, trusts, corporations, firms, associations, institutions, governments, ... concerned with or interested in conservation, and
- (d) generally, to take such action as it considers necessary or appropriate in the interests of promoting conservation...

Our contemporary *NCG Vision and Mission* states:

'VISION: The NCG's vision is for people to understand and appreciate the natural, cultural and built heritage that contributes to the sense of place of the Nepean Peninsula, in order to protect and conserve the amenity and enhance the character of the Nepean Peninsula.'

'MISSION: To lead and inspire the community to appreciate, recognise, conserve, protect and celebrate the natural, cultural and built heritage of the Nepean Peninsula.'

NCG Membership: anecdotal evidence suggests that most of our new members are recruited by learning about the NCG from existing members. Overall membership is being maintained at about the 250 level (this represents about 360 people). Not all are paid up!

ACTION – in 2024 we again ask each of our members to sign up a new member!

ACTION – membership continues to be a strategic priority of the NCG committee for 2024

Membership fees and donations

Membership fees and donations constitute the only income the NCG receives. As a not-for-profit organisation these monies are vital for the NCG to be able to continue the work it undertakes in conservation and planning on the Nepean Peninsula; supporting grant applications for environmental work; making submissions and representation at VCAT and Planning Panel Hearings; liaising with the Shire; reviewing Shire policies and making submissions as relevant; working with like-minded groups; supporting our volunteer Friends Groups; and so on.

We also pay an annual fee to store our archives. Insurance costs have increased dramatically in the past 12 months. Over 2024 the NCG needs to upgrade its website and social media platforms, and the software programs used to communicate with members and Friends Groups.

Over 2023 the NCG committee met formally bi-monthly (January, February AGM, March, May, July, October, December), emailed all members with a quarterly Newsheet (Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer) and organised bi-monthly rambles for members (February AGM, April, June, September, October – even though the weather played havoc with an orderly schedule).



NCG members and friends enjoying a picnic dinner at PNNP after the AGM. Photo Ursula de Jong

Update on NCG DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status

The NCG has appointed 3 members to the Nepean Conservation Group Inc Public Fund Management Committee:

- Mr Alan Clayton PSM Chair
- Ms Judy Muir (OAM) and
- Mr Peter Wilcox (The Bays Accountancy Group)

We thank each for willingness to serve on the Nepean Conservation Group Inc Public Fund Management Committee. The next stage in the process of registering for DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status involves the Australian Tax Office (ATO). The ATO will administer the assessment, approval and application for DGR endorsement. We will notify you when the ATO endorses the NCG for DGR status.

Planning, development and environmental issues

Permit applications. While coastal landscapes, such as that of the Nepean Peninsula are highly valued by the wider community for their scenic beauty and for recreational activities, they are also highly desirable as real estate – this seems even more so after the pandemic.

One of the consequences of the MPS being part of metropolitan Melbourne, ease of access via freeways and increasing suburbanisation has been the loss of character of place. Balancing the economic, social and infrastructure needs of growing residential, holiday home and tourism communities with environmental sustainability and the capacity of such a sensitive coastal landscape continues to be a considerable planning conundrum.

Planning submissions – led by John Atchison and Peter Walker – divided the Nepean Ward between them. This has become more and more difficult as State laws (eg bushfire regulations) are applied to the whole State including our Mornington Peninsula.

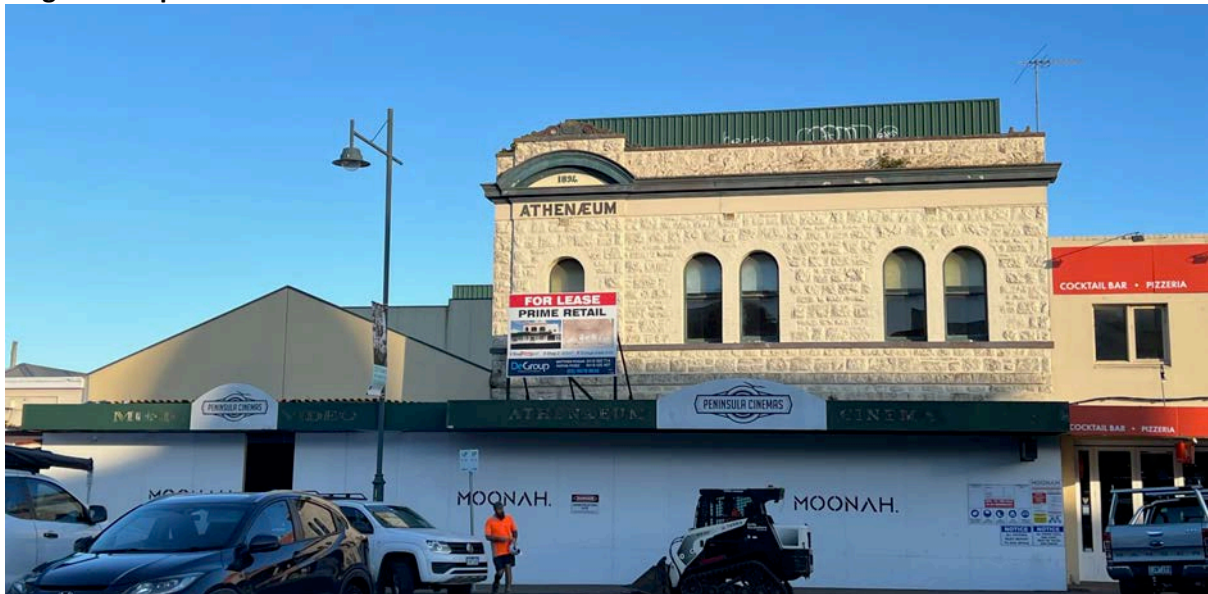
Bushfire regulations and compliance

The impact of State bushfire regulations on the MPS continues to be profound - State bushfire regulations mean we have little means to protect the vegetation of the MPS. The loss of vegetation on an increasing scale means loss of habitat, loss of biodiversity, loss of character of place and greater difficulty in mitigating against climate change impacts. The State regulations are used to completely clear blocks of land. Vegetation replanting and landscape plans, if provided, are generally not followed up by MPS officers. Compliance is a major issue on the Mornington Peninsula.

Amendment C219morn: Housing for the Peninsula: Planning Panels Victoria – February 2023 - C219 Hearing 14 Feb- 28 Feb, 7 March 2023. NCG put forward that the panel had both an obligation and an opportunity to protect the Mornington Peninsula. We developed a tour guide for the PP members and reiterated this in our presentation. PP report came back to the MPS with extra work required. This is yet to be finalised. The amendment remains in limbo – the longer it remains so, the greater and continued is the threat to our neighbourhood character, our sense of place, our unique environment on the Mornington Peninsula.

Strategic Land Review – potential disposal: Blairgowrie 3942 March 2023 - drainage reserves for sale. Highlights the need for vigilance. Given the rapid rate of development - often inappropriate – the need for pocket reserves is greater than ever.

Large developments



June 2023 Athenaeum Sorrento – objections and submissions lodged to MPS and HV. Sorrento township has two state heritage listed properties – the Conti and the Athenaeum – both have now been majorly compromised, with the heritage and the townscape impacted. In July /August 2023 the NCG made submissions and objections to major developments at Boneo Rd, Mineral Hot Springs, and Napier St Rye. None yet resolved. Adverse impacts on green wedge and on townships are palpable.

NCG budget bid March 2023.

Our bid “Working in partnership with community - ongoing support for the care of Bushland Reserves” was unsuccessful. The MPS arguing that they already adequately support our bushland reserves. **The new round of community consultation on budget priorities for 2024-25 is now open.** Please log in and express your support for the environment and Green Wedge. The Shire is the largest Peninsula landholder and concerns at the lack of funding for real environmental work such as weeding are regularly expressed. This is an opportunity for you to have your say. Refer to MPS Budget item in this Newsheet.

Valuing what we have on our doorstep!



Bell's Beach (image Time Out) and Squeaky Beach Wilson's Prom (image Tourism Australia)

In January 2024 Bell's Beach on the Great Ocean Road was ranked as the best surf beach in the country. It was Bells Beach's "red-clay cliffs" and "natural amphitheatre" that helped nab its spot on the best beaches list, alongside its reputation for being an iconic surfing spot. In February 2024 Squeaky Beach on Wilson's Prom was voted the best beach in Australia. Squeaky Beach surrounded by mountains, boasts a 700-metre shoreline with crashing waves, crystal clear waters, colourful granite boulders, and squeaky sand.



Sorrento Back Beach (image Ursula de Jong) features a natural amphitheatre, 700-metre shoreline with crashing waves, crystal clear waters, limestone and calcareous cliffs. But our infrastructure is failing, due to age and lack of maintenance. John Atchison undertook full Sorrento Back Beach infrastructure documentation in 2023. The NCG has had discussions with PV and other local

community groups. We are advocating a holistic approach to this highly valued unique and significant part of our MPNP. We need to undertake a concerted campaign – before we lose it. Help needed.

What of the Mornington Peninsula's inclusion in metropolitan Melbourne?



The MPNP and the PNNP are described as metropolitan parks! There is nothing metropolitan about national parks! Since Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns there have been many articles and letters in the local papers calling for the Mornington Peninsula to be excised from metropolitan Melbourne. The Committee for Mornington is actively working to get the MP declared a regional area – but this is for commercial reasons, for increased tourism and further development.

In May 2018 in landmark legislation Planning and Environment Amendment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Act 2018 was passed to recognise Victoria's most distinctive natural and cultural landscapes. If the Mornington Peninsula were declared a distinctive landscape, it would be a major step in setting out a long-term vision and strategy on how land is used, protected and developed. A map would also be produced of the proposed areas to be protected. The aims of the declaration would be to protect the environment, landscape and lifestyle of the Mornington Peninsula. The NCG is working towards this goal.

The Mornington Peninsula, on the fringe of Metropolitan Melbourne, is renowned for excellent beaches, bay and ocean, historic towns and villages, coastal biodiversity, a rural hinterland, valuable green wedges, boutique wineries and artisan producers, offering a wealth of recreation and tourism facilities and amenities. As the yet to be implemented MPS Neighbourhood Character study has revealed, each community is unique and has its own distinct identity.

The area has been experiencing significant development pressure leading to serious threats to the peninsula's valued landscapes and natural areas, as well as its cultural heritage. There is a need to treat the region as a single, integrated and living entity so that it can be protected for future generations. **There is no other place like the Mornington Peninsula.** The Mornington Peninsula community needs to work very hard together if we are to achieve this goal and value what we have on our doorstep!

The NCG grant applications 2023

NCG works with the MPS and PV to co-ordinate Friends Groups to restore habitat and biodiversity across many bushland reserves. SE Water final report submitted March 2023. In 2023 we submitted 2

Landcare /Melbourne Water grant submissions – Biolinks BB and Stringer Rd Reserve and Tuckey Track. We were successful in getting 3 grants to help in this work: we auspiced the Coastcare – Rye Friends Group led by M Cheers \$10k; received a Port Philip Bay fund \$25; and one Landcare/Melbourne Water biolinks BB \$22k. We are successfully working using this money to reduce weeds and restore habitat. Our new brochure is available for you to pick up today – thank you to MPS, State Government, SPIFFA, PV, NCG, Gidja Walker, Margaret Finger and Ursula de Jong.



Flora and Fauna are thriving – echidna left and bower spinach right. Photos Ursula de Jong 2024

Our Friends Groups and volunteers make a difference

The 2022 MOU covers the Shire managed bushland and drainage reserves associated with Nepean Conservation Group Inc. Great news – flora and fauna thriving!!! BUT need to get more volunteers

- To revitalise and nurture the people who are active friends at the moment, and
- To enable those with knowledge and skills and passion to mentor the next generation of volunteers and friends.

Great news for conservation and the environment

Congratulations to Gidja Walker on her receipt of a Medal of the Order of Australia for her "service to conservation and the environment".

Moonah woodland project - working with People and Parks Foundation in partnership with PV, MPS, PNAG, local community (NCG +SPIFFA), St Joseph's PS Sorrento, St Mary's Parish Sorrento. The aim is to connect with and protect our remaining coastal Moonah Woodland. Alison Hill, Managing Director of People and Parks Foundation, explains that 'Moonah NatureWise' 'aims to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental outcomes, health and wellbeing outcomes, and a broader, deeper community sense of agency and connection to place, in the face of biodiversity loss, climate change and, for many, eco-anxiety'. This is a very exciting project and you are invited to participate – refer to the NCG Newsheets and the NCG website for further information. Media release attached FYI.

Moonah Naturewise: An exciting new project – and an invitation to join in! Moonah NatureWise. A Moonah Woodland Communities Restoration and People and Parks Foundation ‘Live Nature Wise’ program: Bringing environmental and human health back together. Refer to attached media release.



Moonahs and their habitat. Point Nepean National Park, January 2024. Photo Ursula de Jong

NCG Strategic roadmap 2024/2025

Rebranding for the next 5 years. Relevance of NCG? Repositioning the NCG. Succession planning.

Membership

Membership drive continues, alerting the wider Nepean community to our significant work and inviting them to support us

Environment

Short term: Enhancing our unique environment through grants

Medium term: Planning policy

Long term: Distinctive landscape

Ongoing: Nurturing volunteers and Friends Groups

Engagement

Local and state government, community groups and organisations

Members: regular communication

Broader community: sell ourselves

Work with Mornington Peninsula Landcare Groups

Join with other like-minded groups

Thank you to the 2023 outgoing NCG committee

John Atchison, Eddy de Jong, Ursula de Jong, Priscilla Donald, Barend Frielink, Lisa Howard, John Trewarne, Shannon Richards, Catherine Walker, Peter Walker

Thank you especially to those who are retiring from the committee:

Priscilla Donald, Barend Frielink and Peter Walker – contributions as grant officer, social media coordinator and membership officer respectively are greatly appreciated.

Finally: A thank you to all our volunteers - in whatever capacity you volunteer, your time, energy and expertise are appreciated! The invitation to become a volunteer is always open! All are welcome, no matter your skills. If you are not yet an NCG member please sign up! If you are member – please sign someone else up! The more people we have involved the stronger the community!

Keep in touch: facebook, Instagram, website and email: info@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

**Biodiversity, Biolinks, Climate Change: Why are they important?
Achieving Large-scale Objectives by Working Locally. Dr Greg Holland**



Dr Holland began by explaining what biodiversity is and how you achieve it on the MP, before discussing the concept of biolinks. He spoke about species diversity in a patchwork landscape, referring attendees to the Article: “Biodiversity. What is it, and Why is it Important”. He discussed the creation of a biolink from Greens Bush to Arthur’s Seat in some detail, likening biolinks to highways for flora and fauna. While “bush” may be seen as an obstruction for humans, corridors and patches of bush are actually the highways for animals. Roads are actually killing zones for all species! Humans need to make bridges over and tunnels under their roads for all other species.

He noted that farmers benefit from having vegetation on their properties, apart from providing shelter and shade and thus mitigating climate effects locally, environmental biodiversity is actually good for production!

Dr Holland then considered his own property in detail: the Carranya Biolink-Link – explaining the need to understand your land first, its structure and its EVC, and to be mindful of working with the land. The clear message was to look at the local so you can contribute to biodiversity.

Why is biodiversity important? Look at our pollinators: Blue-banded Bee, *Amegilla sp.*; Black-headed Hoverfly, *Melangyna viridiceps*; predators: Melbourne Trapdoor Spider, *Stanwellia grisea*; Common Spotted Ladybird, *Harmonia conformis*; Black-faced Percher Dragonfly, *Diplacodes melanopsis*; scavengers: Little Raven, *Corvus mellori*; and detritivores: Land Hopper, *Arcitalitrus sylvaticus*.



Blue-banded Bee, *Amegilla sp.* Photo Greg Holland

Dr Holland then considered: Adjusting to Our Rapidly-changing Climate, Global Surface Air Temperatures, and Small Changes = Big Impacts. And noted Global Climate Change Impacts. Generally, for a warming world

- Rain is more intense (warmer air holds more moisture)
- Heatwaves and droughts become more intense and frequent (the ground dries out more rapidly)
- Growing Seasons become longer, hotter, and drier.

Some Examples:

- For 1.5°C warming - 50-60% of land breaks the previous temperature record every year and this increases to 70-80% for 2°C warming
- For 2°C - the days on which we can do outside manual work decreases by 30% (as defined by safe working regulations) and this decrease accelerates rapidly beyond 2°C

What can we do locally? Benefits of Well-designed Shelterbelts and Bush Patches - compared to bare pasture, correctly sheltered areas have:

- >10mm more water retention during spring growing season
- 15-20% more pasture growth
- 20-30% higher farm yield
- ~30% increase in live-weight cattle gain over several weeks

So why wouldn't you create shelter belts? Verges are a good place to start!

Further Reading

Severe Weather in a Changing Climate (IAG 2019)

Biolink Information document available from greg@Carranya.net

Shelterbelt Design Guidelines for Climate Change (Cardinia Shire 2022) (includes discussion on fire safety)

Native Shelterbelts: Benefits for Wildlife (Parks NSW 1999)

Natural Asset Farming (Lindenmayer et al 2022)

Plover update!!

From 20 February 2024 from **Lisa Williams**, Ranger - West - Southern Peninsula Parks & Reserves, South East Melbourne District



Hoodie eggs Portsea Back Beach December 2023 - unfortunately they were swept away by high tides. Photo Ursula de Jong

We start the week with a jaw-dropping **11 fledglings**, after the Montforts chick, Rye Car Park East siblings and one of the Miami siblings earned their wing licences. While we're not yet at our target of 14 fledglings, we've more than doubled last year's numbers. And with the remaining Miami chick developing further each day, we may just reach 12!

We're now at the tail-end of the season, with birds flocking at Gunnamatta, St Andrews Beach and Portsea. One speckled egg remains in a scrape on Nepean Bay (Pt Nepean National Park) - it's the only known nest on the Southern Peninsula. All going well, the solitary egg will hatch mid-March, and chick will grow through 'till late April. While the breeding pair have chosen and eroded beach

frequented by foxes and predatory birds, their timing is good - mild weather and reduced human traffic may benefit their last-ditch attempt at raising young!

In an eggshell:

Nests = 1 Point Nepean, Nepean Bay

Chicks = 1 St Andrews Beach Miami

(*One Miami sibling has already fledged. This little trooper was noticeably smaller from the outset, and requires a few more bug meals before it'll be developed fully for flight)

Fledglings = 11

Blairgowrie Montforts; Rye Heyfield West; Rye Heyfield East; Rye Brewsters; Rye Alison Avenue
Rye Alison Avenue East Bay; Rye Car Park East (x2); St Andrews Beach Miami (x1 - one sibling to go!);
Gunnamatta Fingal Track West (x2).



Photos: The Friends of the Hooded Plover (Mornington Peninsula) Inc. sizzling up the very best sausages at Bunnings 18 February 2024 (photo by Tahlia Cruise), and gorgeous cotton wool ball chicks made by the creative students at St Joseph's Primary in Sorrento (photo by Jane Byrne).

Shout out: There's a strong community commitment to hooded plover conservation on the Mornington Peninsula. The Friends of the Hooded Plover have monitored breeding pairs tirelessly this season, contributing ~900 data entries to Birdlife Australia's database (and counting)! Hooooee, that's a lot of sand walking and fence installing. They've held community talks, volunteer beach walks, and yesterday, to advocate for the birds and raise money for their protection, they fired up the Bunnings BBQ and fed locals with some of the tastiest sausages going. Onya team! We love collaborating with you.

And while *Hoodie Who?* had a break over the summer holidays, school is back, and we're hearing about its creative uses! Check out the gorgeous cotton wool ball chicks made by the clever students at St Joseph's Primary in Sorrento - we always did joke chicks' legs were like toothpicks!



February 2024 Landcare Newsletter link:

<https://mailchi.mp/e6284d0126cc/mpln-december-newsletter-5438007?e=5b86ebbf8>

Parks Victoria Updates

<https://parks victoria.cmail20.com/t/r-e-tidhhiil-nljititjd-yk/>

January 2024 Summer ramble

Point Nepean National Park – held on Sunday 21 January 2024 – early start at 8.30 am!

We - a baker's dozen - enjoyed a wonderful walk. With the weather unpredictable we were pleased to have a coolish day. We walked just as the southerly change blew in - so northerlies changed to southerlies and we could had dress circle viewing platforms across the heads – exhilarating. We walked from Gunner's Cottage to Observation Point, then along Coles Track, up to Cheviot Hill look out, through Happy Valley and back. Walking through Moonah woodlands was inspirational. Great to see the work of the friends of PNNP who meet every Tuesday.



PNNP view form Cheviot Hill. Southerlies moving in. A few ramblers taking shelter from the showers sweeping in from Bass Strait. Thank you Peter Seddon for these two evocative photos.

MPS Open Space Strategy- opportunity to 'tell us about your park'

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE - The Shire's Open Space team is developing a new Open Space Strategy. They want to hear how we can improve the peninsula's open space network.

Open space includes parks, sporting reserves **AND** the **bushland** and **foreshore reserves** that you all work so hard to protect.

Let the Shire's Open Space team know how important the Peninsula's bushland and foreshore reserves are by completing the online survey (**closes on 29 Feb**):

<https://shape.mornpen.vic.gov.au/open-space-strategy>



Mornington Peninsula Shire Budget 2024-25

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Have your say: Want to influence how the Shire allocates its funds? Consultation for the 24-25 Budget is now underway, and we would love to hear from YOU! We've made it quick and easy for everyone to have their ideas and priorities considered for the Budget. Rank your priorities below or share your feedback in the comment box. All contributions and feedback will be presented to Council for their consideration.

While most of the money in the Budget is allocated to essential services including rubbish and recycling, road maintenance, family services and more, a portion of the Budget is spent at the discretion of Council and is influenced by our community's feedback.

Last year, consultation results showed that the top priority of our community was road safety and maintenance. Council took this on board and allocated a total operating budget of \$26 million to transport connections, which is an eight per cent increase on the previous year's spend.

Other highlights from last year's budget are many, including, but not limited to:

- \$2.6M for footpath renewal and risk mitigation
- \$500,000 for a new playground in Hastings
- \$2.9M for a new pavilion at Red Hill Reserve
- \$1M to Canadian Bay foreshore carpark renewal
- \$100,000 towards investigating soccer facilities in Somerville
- \$5.5M for the new Southern Peninsula Youth Hub
- \$110,000 Sorrento netball court design.

Other popular initiatives included introducing tip vouchers to tenants, increasing the number of no charge green waste events, and removing the tip fees for mattresses, tyres and fridges.

Read more on our [Budget 2023-24 highlights\(External link\)](#) page.

[Be in it to win it!](#)

As a thank you for telling us what matters most to you, we are rewarding 10 lucky contributors with \$100 food/restaurant vouchers. All those who contribute to this year's Budget can choose to go into a weekly draw to win.

Other ways to contribute

In writing

Hard copy feedback forms are available at our Customer Service Centres. Or you can share your ideas in a letter or email.

Mail: Budget 2024-25, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Private Bag 1000, Rosebud, Vic, 3939

Email: budget@mornpen.vic.gov.au(External link)

Talk to your Councillor

You can also [contact your local Ward Councillor](#)(External link) to discuss your submission.

Drop-in sessions

Come have your say at an information session near you, information to the right!

The NCG encourages all of you to put our environment, our bushland reserves, our Green Wedge on the Budget agenda.

PNNP Research Centre Update December 2023

From Jane Kasby on behalf of the Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station project team.



Update on progress of the Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station. In April 2023 the university partners, Monash University and the University of Melbourne, agreed to [inject additional funding](#) to support the development of the Field Station, supplementing the \$17 million in grant funding already received from the Commonwealth. The project team has finalised the conceptual design for the Field Station. The design will be submitted for planning approval early in 2024, including the required consultation process.

The design envisages the Field Station as being a vibrant teaching, learning and research hub bringing together students, researchers and the local community in a unique coastal and marine

environment. It will be capable of hosting significant coursework and research onsite, including immersive student experiences in a unique landscape rich with culture, history and biodiversity.

The Field Station will comprise the adaptive reuse of the existing Badcoe Hall, transforming it into a research and teaching facility, complete with laboratories and collaborative spaces. A new purpose-built short-stay university accommodation facility will be built between Badcoe Hall and Jackson Road, allowing students and research groups to stay onsite to maximise the teaching and research potential offered by the Field Station.

The design no longer includes the proposed seawater tanks and piping system for storing live marine samples onsite. This decision was based on the need to ensure the Field Station is sustainable in the long term given the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of the seawater tanks and piping system. This decision allows for greater flexibility in the design, meaning the Field Station can cater to the full range of teaching and research opportunities envisaged by our academics, allowing us to better maximise the use of the Field Station. The study of marine life will continue within the breadth of research carried out at the Field Station, the location of which will readily facilitate the study of locally sourced marine samples without the need for permanent live-storage facilities.

With this exciting design milestone reached, the project team will advance community engagement by returning to the Point Nepean Portsea Market in March 2024, providing the opportunity for the community to view and learn more about the designs. We are also planning further community briefing sessions in 2024. We look forward to updating you further on the project and sharing visuals of the design in the coming months as we progress through government and regulatory approvals. Please reach out should you wish to discuss the project further or need more information, we are also more than happy to arrange tailored briefings with you.

The next Portsea Market will be at PNNP on 9 March 2024 – with information booth available.



NCG members and friends enjoying watching the dolphins at PNNP after the AGM. Photo Chris Dunn.

Keep Sunday 24 March 2024 free for our Autumn ramble ...

Please find attached MPS new electoral boundaries map and report!

We look forward to hearing from you – info@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au