



NEPEAN CONSERVATION GROUP INC

ABN 44 531 738 131 Reg. No. A0020791U

PO Box 157, Sorrento 3943

www.nepeanconservationgroup.org.au info@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

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 June Newsheet 2024



Sorrento Ocean Beach, May 2024. Photo Ursula de Jong

Welcome to your Winter NCG Inc Newsheet. We welcome your feedback.

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. Chris Dunn has taken over the membership portfolio and is updating all our files and transferring them to a more workable data base. Over the next couple of months Committee members will be following up those who have not yet renewed their membership with a phone call. We value you enormously and look forward to your feedback, understanding your circumstances, compiling a list of what you value about the Nepean Peninsula, and what your concerns are about this unique coastal place.

The NCG Inc 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

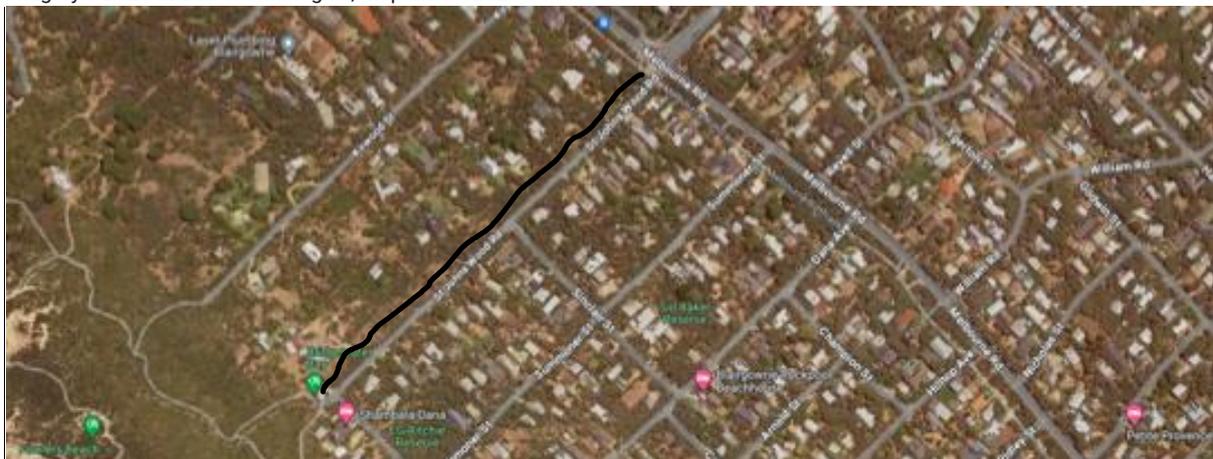
Work with Mornington Peninsula Landcare Groups

Join with other like-minded groups

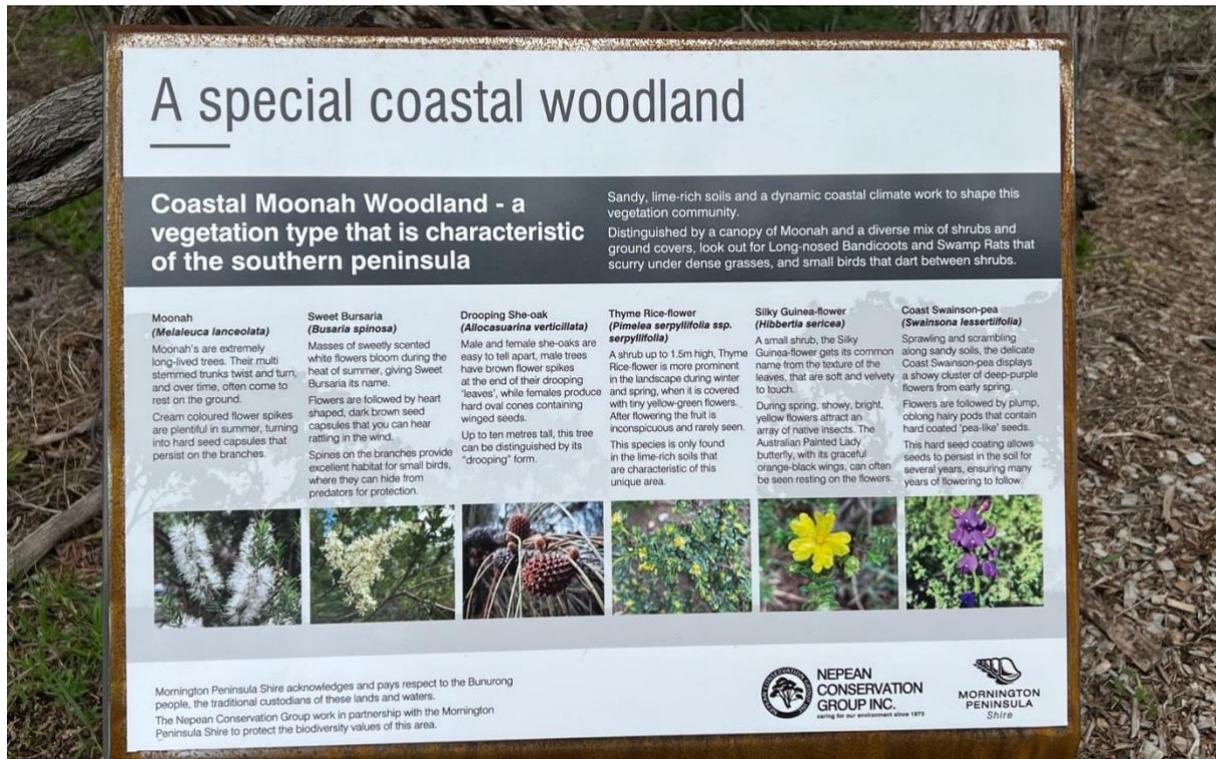
This Winter take the time to explore our new “linear bushland reserve” along St JohnsWood Road Blairgowrie – created in the wide verge between Melbourne Road and Bridgewater Bay carpark.

This reserve and meandering track is the culmination of four years’ work and a collaboration between the Mornington Peninsula Shire, the Nepean Conservation Group Inc and the Blairgowrie Community Advocacy Group. There is still much work to be done – the formation of a Friends Group is critical for ongoing care of this unique strip of land.

Imagery ©2024 Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2024 100m



St JohnsWood Road linear bushland reserve Blairgowrie signs now in place:



Top: sign erected at the Melbourne Road commencement of the track; Below: sign erected in the Bridgewater Bay carpark end of the St JohnsWood Road linear bushland reserve.



Friends Group volunteers are needed more than ever to nurture our unique coastal environment – get involved in caring for place and make new friends!



Our littlest friend at work. Potos U de Jong May 2024



Volunteering is a great activity for young and old even in the winter months. Photo E de Jong June 2024

VALE Ian Haskins OAM

19 March 1930 – 5 May 2024



Enid and Ian were long standing life members of the Nepean Conservation Group Inc. Ian joined the NCG in 1985 and became Chairman in 1988. He was president of the NCG on and off until 2009 when he shared the position with Charles Cayless. Ursula de Jong became President in 2010.

In 1999 Ian received a Rotary Community service award in recognition of his service to the community over many years. In 2009 he received the Australia Day Award OAM. In February 2009 the NCG committee congratulated Ian on his Australia Day award of the OAM. "A very well-deserved award for his tireless and outstanding work with the Nepean Conservation Group and in the community over many years". At that time "there was still a stalemate between the State and Federal Governments over the handover of the Park at Point Nepean".

Family: Ian was born in Goulburn NSW. He was married to Enid. They had two children David and Fiona.

Work: Ian joined Shell Australia, had a break to travel to the UK and hike around Europe before re-joining Shell Australia where he held various roles up until retirement. He worked as a Marketing Manager. It was on the boat to the UK that Ian met Enid.

Sailing: Ian's love of sailing began when he was living in NSW and then later in Mt Gambier and then Sorrento. He sailed in various boats. The family spent many weekends at Sorrento. He and David built a Mirror whilst in Mt Gambier and then they sailed at Sorrento. Ian was also a member of the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, sailing in a keel boat with a group of other sailing friends for a number of years.

Conservation Work: Ian had a love of Australian nature evidenced by his tireless dedicated contribution to the Nepean Conservation Group on the Mornington Peninsula. Ian was also a Member of Society for Growing Australian Plants, volunteered in their Annual Shows and attended the Conferences which were held around Australia

Sports/Leisure Activities: Ian played Rugby in his earlier years. Ian also enjoyed his golf. He and Enid enjoyed the outdoors, bushwalking, bird watching, travelling to different places far and near and spent weekends and holidays at Sorrento.

CMF (Army Reserve-Royal Engineers Corp): Ian had more than 24 years in the CMF, rising to the rank of Major.

Lodge: Ian was a Freemason in 1954 and remained with the Lodge as a Master Mason for 70 years.

Probus: Ian was a member for almost of 40 years, he and Enid enjoying many outings with the group.

Church: Ian was actively involved, along with Enid in The Avenue Uniting Church and sponsored a refugee family from Cambodia who had left to escape the Khmer Rouge. Ian also assisted in building the local community house.

Ian lived a full and productive life. Never did anyone know more about what was going on, on the Mornington Peninsula than did Ian. He was a formidable foe in the many planning and conservation battles. The contribution of the Haskin family to the care for the Nepean Peninsula will not be forgotten – their legacy lives on today. Thank you to Ian's family (especially Fiona Barnes) for photos and information.

Nepean Advocacy Group [NAG] and MPS Bus Tour Friday 22 March 2024

The MPS senior planning team and NAG community members planned this day. A huge thank you is hereby expressed to all attendees: the time, effort and input is greatly appreciated. The findings, lessons learned, outcomes and actions will be discussed at the July NAG meeting with the MPS. Our itinerary and issues discussed are detailed below:

Rye Shopping strip - Walk led by Mechelle Cheers

Points for consideration - Rye retail strip. Concern is around five storey hotel /apartments proposed at 6 Napier Street & the parking & access at the back of the produce store just given to a developer for a new development. Materials in the only existing grey 3 storey building. Just off the retail strip and in particular around Woolworths are multiple short term rental residences, of non-descript designs.



Bridgewater Bay carpark, St Johns Wood Road in Blairgowrie – Walk led by Ursula de Jong

Points for consideration - Concern is the destruction of vegetation and the change in neighbourhood character of this “wildcoast” area. Environmental degradation impacts biodiversity, habitat for flora and fauna, capacity for survival. Oversized buildings built almost to block boundaries, with a footprint too big for the block (house, garage, pool, tennis court, decking, pergolas, verandahs). Buildings that greatly impact sight lines a major issue. Inappropriate fencing is now a significant problem. Use of “borrowed amenity”. Street parking – “party houses”; B&B visitors; construction workers; verges destroyed, covered in gravel becoming SUV, boat and caravan parking.



Travel along Melbourne Road and into the Stringer Road and St Pauls Road

neighbourhood on the way to Ocean Beach Road Sorrento – Discussion on bus

*Drive along Melbourne Rd, right down Agnes Ave, left into Macfarlan Ave, right into Stringer Rd (past Slips Reserve), right into Blairgowrie Ave, left into Olive St, left into Nepean Hwy, left into Stringer Rd, right into Melbourne Rd, noting scale of properties and impact on neighbourhood, vegetation and environment. Continue along Melbourne Rd. Note fencing of properties as we drive – impact on the local landscape, and lack of compliance with MPS policies.

*Right into St Paul’s Road, left Hiskens St, left Bowen Rd, right Watson Rd, left Coppin Rd, right into Melbourne Rd. Note 808 and 799 Melbourne Rd – inappropriate development for Sorrento on the Nepean Peninsula. Continue along Melbourne Rd, noting inappropriate fencing and buildings, then left into Ocean Beach Rd at roundabout.

Ocean Beach Rd, Sorrento – Walk led by Ursula de Jong

Points for consideration - Ocean Beach Road - noting residential development in a precinct with a heritage overlay – “Palms”, development proposals 148-152, Carmel, Antipodes, former Mitre 10 site, to Athenaeum, Stringers and Continental Hotel and back to bus.



MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

A letter from Hannah Brown - your input wanted

Dear Friends Groups,

I am writing to invite you to provide comment on the draft Urban Forest Strategy, I am excited to advise that our consultation period is now open and closes 10th July, 2024.

You can find the details of the strategy and feedback methods here: [Urban Forest Strategy | Shape Our Future \(mornpen.vic.gov.au\)](https://mornpen.vic.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy).

Our urban forest includes all of the trees, vegetation and soil within our urban areas, and provides many benefits to our local environment and community, so it is essential that it is appropriately managed and protected into the future.

We know that the Mornington Peninsula has a great deal of biodiversity and canopy that makes it a unique and amazing place to live and work. We also know that our urban forest is at risk from a number of threats and challenges, and so it's critical that we have a long term strategy to guide our actions, and ensure a common approach between the Shire, State Government organisations, residents and community groups.

I've shared this with you as it may be highly relevant to you and the communities that you work with, from an environmental, social, health & wellbeing and amenity perspective.

I am hoping that you can support this consultation through:

- Providing feedback on the Shape page survey and/or interactive map, from an individual or collective perspective
- Sharing this email with any groups or networks that may be relevant

There will also be a stakeholder workshop in early July, which will focus on implementation and collaboration opportunities with community groups. Please email Daniel with an expression of interest if you would like to attend.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, you can contact Daniel Kabel (Environmental Sensitive Design Officer) on daniel.kabel@mornpen.vic.gov.au or 0422 018 661.

Thank you,



HANNAH BROWN (she/her) | Natural Systems Volunteers Officer

Email: hannah.brown@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Phone: 03 5950 1356

Private Bag 1000, Rosebud VIC 3939 | 90 Besgrove Street, Rosebud VIC 3939

Follow us on social media!





May and June 2024 Landcare Newsletter link:

<https://mailchi.mp/f053e39f8f4c/mpln-december-newsletter-5451256?e=26c593851f>

Parks Victoria Updates

Experience Winter in Victoria's National Parks:

<https://parks victoria.cmail20.com/t/r-e-tdblydk-nljlitjtjd-jh/>

Camping opportunities opening soon for bookings in Victoria's National Parks:

<https://parks victoria.cmail19.com/t/r-e-tdpltk-nljlitjtjd-o/>

Port updates are available in the June report:

<https://parks victoria.cmail19.com/t/r-e-tdcutud-nyhhtatir-v/>

VNPA – Victorian National Parks Association

The NCG subscribes to the VNPA. Welcome to the June edition of Park Watch! Meet the 'milestones, duck ponds and legislative bunyips' emerging from the end of native forest logging, unpack the endangered wildlife housing crisis, and get up to date with the latest in 'loophole logging'. Take a peek into the incredible former Holden Proving Ground in Western Port Woodlands, catch up with Glossy Black Cockatoos and check out the latest books on nature in Victoria. Read the full edition of Park Watch

<https://mailchi.mp/vnpa.org.au/park-watch-june-2024?e=a00e49f60f>

Point Nepean National Park

The three-year term of the Point Nepean Advisory Group (PNAG) comes to an end in September 2024. An evaluation and review of the effectiveness PNAG and its role is underway, and recommendations will be made going forward. It is critical that the community remains involved in this National Park, at a time when erosion is at high levels and the impact on the environmental values of this place are severely threatened.



Second stage of camping at Point Nepean National Park ready for Spring 1 June 2024. Photos U de Jong



For updates on Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station go to <https://www.pointnepeanfieldstation.org.au/>

EJA Environmental Justice Australia

April Bulletin: <https://email.envirojustice.org.au/t/t-e-eijiun-authihrijl-yu/>

BirdLife Australia

Backyards Winter Newsletter

<https://go.birdlife.org.au/webmail/946822/1178840747/6de7c1644bcb1ad43fa6b94ace819d359f3d0032d3ba2e8936edb26b5896eede>



LEFT: Butcherbird overlooking Sorrento Ocean Beach from Coppins Lookout! May 2024 Photo U de Jong.
RIGHT: Pied Oyster catchers on the march – Port Arlington June 2024 Photo T de Jong Curtain

24 March 2024 NCG Autumn ramble

Following Dr Greg Holland's presentation at the 2024 NCG AGM, he made his property available for an NCG ramble. Thirteen of us were welcomed and spent a most informative few hours exploring eight very different environments in such a small area, from dry grasslands, to thriving wetlands. This Autumn ramble was followed by a wonderful morning tea and discussion on the back patio overlooking the landscape. Our sincerest thanks to Greg for his hospitality and generous sharing of knowledge.



We leave you with some images to tempt you along to our next ramble ...

Grant applications and completions

In April 2024 two grant applications were submitted – one to the Port Phillip Bay Fund (\$25k) from Portsea to Rye and one to Victorian Landcare, (\$20k) focussing on Tuckey Track and Stringers Reserve.

In May the progress report for the 2023-24 Victorian Landcare Biolinks Grant was submitted. Why not go for a walk and see our work in progress?



Photo U de Jong, June 2024. Works are well underway to clear the woody weeds in the MPNP between the Jack Ritchie Track and St Johns Wood Road Bridgewater Bay carpark, in the area between the houses and the sandy walking track behind Bridgewater Bay. We are restoring this habitat to ensure good biolinks for flora and fauna interfacing with some magnificent stands of moonah trees. Once NatureLinks have removed most of the woody weeds, it will be time to hand weed and prepare for natural regeneration and some planting by volunteers. We are working with the Friends of Bridgewater Bay to extend their work from the Jack Ritchie Track. Why not join the friends – first Friday of the month – 10.00am to 12.00 noon? You would be most welcome.

In mid-June the NCG auspiced Coast Care Grant for the Rye area near the kiln (\$10k) has been completed. We thank NatureLinks for their work, Mechelle Cheers and the Rye Friends Group for their dedication to caring for the environment and submitting the final report. Why not go for a walk and see what has been achieved?

Further grant reports and updates in the next Newsheet!

Preparing for Plastic-Free July with Conservation Volunteers Australia [CVA]

<https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=d0c43801b8&u=e0731179bb9331e8a4434257e&id=3aa3f771e0>

As we approach the month of July, it's time for us to prepare for an important global initiative.

Here at Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), we are passionate about reducing our impact on the natural environment and decreasing plastic waste pollution. Plastic-Free July is a significant challenge that requires preparation and anticipation, so we thought we'd help out! Here is a list of 5 easy tips and steps to get ready for it:



1 Do a Plastic Audit of Your Home: The first step is to identify the products you consume at home that contain Plastic. Awareness is the first step towards change. CVA's family-friendly [Sea To Source Plastic Waste Challenge](#) help you conduct this audit.

2 Find Plastic-Free Alternatives: Try to replace daily items that are made from or wrapped in plastic with plastic alternatives. For instance, opt for reusable grocery bags, buy loose fruits and vegetables, and switch to laundry detergent that isn't packaged in single-use plastic.

3 Spread the Word about Plastic-Free Living: By sharing the dangers of plastic waste and the benefits of a plastic-free lifestyle, we can collectively raise awareness and inspire others to join in.

4 Take part in a plastics clean up: Cleaning up accumulated plastic waste from our oceans and lands is as important as reducing our plastic consumption. Joining one of our [conservation volunteering events](#) can make a significant difference.

5 Learn More About Plastic Pollution: Educate yourself about the plastic pollution crisis. Understanding the issue allows us to advocate more effectively for a plastic-free world.

Remember, each one of us has the power to make a difference. Your actions matter – let's become superheroes for our planet this Plastic-Free July!

Southern humped whales spotted off Sorrento bayside Tuesday 18 June 2024

Report heard on ABC Melbourne. No pictures! Migration begins mid-June – not only in the Bay but along the Bass Strait coast – so take your binoculars as you walk along the cliffs this winter – it is a wonderful awe-inspiring sight to see. Recreational boaters and anglers are reminded that they must stay 200m away from whales and 100m away from dolphins, unless approached. Jet skis are not permitted within 300m of any whale or dolphin.



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

Do enjoy Winter on our beautiful Peninsula!

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



Winter solstice – evening silhouettes along our Bass Strait coast, MPNP. Photo U de Jong