



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 environment 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 2025 Newssheet supplement



Winter rain, Bass Strait, Mornington Peninsula National Park. North westerlies @ 60kms per hour, we could hardly stand on the cliffs. Invigorating! Photo Ursula de Jong

Welcome to your NCG June Newssheet supplement. We have had lots of feedback from you, hence the need for updates. We do welcome your feedback and engagement.

Your 2025 committee members are:

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

Contacting us: info@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

Membership: membership@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

President: president@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council recent decisions Rescinding Climate emergency plan

Response received from “No Reply” on 16 June 2025:

Your request for General Enquiry at Rosebud Municipal Offices 90 Besgrove Street ROSEBUD VICTORIA 3939.

Update on your request 2025-048687

“We agree that the Mornington Peninsula with 192km’s of Victoria’s coastline and the Green Wedge has outstanding natural beauty and diverse landscapes that need protecting.

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding Council’s recent decision to discontinue the Climate Emergency Declaration and associated Climate Emergency Plan.

We understand and acknowledge that climate change remains a critical issue for many in our community. Council’s decision does not reflect a withdrawal from climate action, but rather a shift in how this work is integrated and delivered across broader strategies and plans.

Council remains firmly committed to building climate resilience and meeting its statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 2020, Climate Change Act 2017, and Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. Climate initiatives will continue to be embedded through key documents, such as the Health and Wellbeing Plan, and supported through relevant projects and funding opportunities as they arise.

Your feedback is valuable and continues to inform how we prioritise environmental sustainability within our decision-making processes. Yours Sincerely, Mornington Peninsula Shire.

PETITION: The NCG has been made aware of this climate emergency plan petition. I am sharing it with you and inviting you to sign up. Please also refer to the attached Advertorial which appeared in the SPN this week. <https://chnng.it/Vy65QxB5wB>

WRITE: One of our members has suggested members write individually to our MPS Councillor expressing their views: Councillor Andrea Allen <Andrea.Allen@mornpen.vic.gov.au> Thank you June.

Response from one of our members concerning planning issues: Hi Ursula, I used to look out over trees to the sand dunes (now being dotted with large houses) beyond from my little hilltop back yard. I take pride in conserving the indigenous and endemic bush plants and trees on my small property. I was devastated to arrive home after 6 weeks away to find the house behind and 2 doors down had been demolished, every single tree and bush erased and a monstrosity covering the block to within a few feet of each boundary [see images below]. This is the third new building like this within a hundred metres from my house. If we continue to allow this to happen we will have no natural peninsula bush land left. It will be GONE. Jennifer



BANKSIAS at Webster’s Corner Sorrento Foreshore have been replanted. They look terrific, are healthy and with the recent rain should thrive. MPS has advised that there is a 12-month care plan in place, so they will be watered over this coming summer, after which they should have established themselves.

Sorrento Primary School supporting the conservation work of NCG.

On 12 June I received this wonderful email from the sustainability coordinator at Sorrento Primary School.

“I wanted to make contact with you to let you know that our school recognised World Environment Day and World Oceans Day last week, by participating in a range of classroom and outdoor teaching and learning activities, and through holding a ‘Free Dress’ Day and lunchtime viewing of ‘Finding Nemo’, and we identified the Dolphin Research Institute and Nepean Conservation Group, as joint recipients of the proceeds from the gold coin donation that was asked of families.

“Can you please advise me if there is a bank account that the donation can be deposited into, or whether there is another way in which we can support the group with this donation.

“... I am very interested in chatting with you to learn more about the work that you do and how we can support each other. I would also love to show you the Sustainability and indigenous planting project that we completed last year.”



View of Sorrento Primary School, Kerford Road, Sorrento. Source <https://sorrentops.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/>

“The total takings from our Free Dress Day and gold coin fundraiser was \$360, so we are delighted to donate a half of the takings to your group and the wonderful work that you do”. I will meet with Will next week for an introduction to the work they are undertaking at Sorrento Primary School.

The NCG is most grateful for this generous donation, and we look forward to working together.

NEW MOU BETWEEN NCG Inc AND MPS

A new environmental agreement is being developed between the NCG Inc and the MPS. This will replace our current MOU which expires 30 June 2025.



Newsletter June 2025

Link: <https://mailchi.mp/35c0f744cd9d/mpln-december-newsletter-5848137?e=5b86ebbf8>



Link: <https://mailchi.mp/bafeed3c4009/welcome-to-issue-39-connector-newsletter-17659463?e=e316f664e6>



<https://dolphinresearchinstitute.cmail20.com/t/y-e-qnhuky-hiujkhyhhh-z/>

The WHALES are here! On Sunday 15 June Eddy and I saw a large pod of whales off Spray Point. We walked to see the sea sprays and splashes, and instead were able to observe somewhere between 24 and 30 whales – spouting, breaching, tail flapping. They were a long way offshore and heading south slowly. We were so excited. Eddy reported our sighting to the Dolphin Research Institute, and they have confirmed today that they were humpback whales. A link to their e-Bulletin is provided above. So, keep your eyes posted, and report sightings to the Dolphin Research Institute.



Big news for Bass Coast!

For the first time EVER, the Victorian Government has officially recognised the magic of the Western Port Woodlands. The region is the fourth ever to receive the status of 'distinctive landscape'.
Recognition is fantastic. But forever protection is what matters.

The great thing is, your elected reps have the power to make that happen.



Our largest remnant intact coastal woodland wasn't even mentioned in early drafts of the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Plan.

Now it is. This didn't happen by accident. It's because of local champions and supporters like you who refused to let these rare woodlands be forgotten.

Working shoulder-to-shoulder with the Save Westernport Woodlands Alliance, we made sure the Planning Panel couldn't ignore this incredible oasis.

This is really good news. But here's the rub: the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Draft Plan doesn't include an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO). **This powerful tool would shield these wildlife habitats from destruction.**

The Panel say they need to do "further investigative work". So let's make it happen.

Right now, pressure from industrial sand mining and development casts a long shadow over the future of Southern Brown Bandicoots, Powerful Owls and heaps of other threatened critters.

As Catherine Watson from Save Western Port Woodlands said: "We've made real progress. Now we need urgent action to ensure conservation of this area for all time".



We've got to make sure they fund survey work and give this special place safety from harm. Plus, the Old Holden Proving Ground needs to be bought to connect the missing habitat links.

[Until this magical wildlife corridor is safe forever, from Nyora to Grantville, together we'll keep pushing decision-makers.](#)

Together, we'll keep proving that passionate and persistent advocacy can move mountains (and protect woodlands).

Jordan, Matt, Sera and the whole Western Port Woodlands Alliance

A distinctive landscape designation for the Mornington Peninsula?

You will remember that over the past few years the NCG Inc has been concerned about the protection, care, and survival of our very special Mornington Peninsula. We are deeply concerned about the Mornington Peninsula being simply subsumed into the metropolis of Melbourne, and descriptions of our National Parks as “urban parks”. There is nothing urban about our wild coast. Our green wedges are of outstanding natural beauty and provide diverse landscapes that need protecting. We continue to work, albeit slowly towards achieving a distinctive landscape status for the whole of the Mornington Peninsula.



Above: VNPA member enjoying the coastal woodlands, Bass Coast.

Conserving our Peninsula

Are you passionate about preserving the beauty and heritage of the Nepean Peninsula?

Join the Nepean Conservation Group Inc — a dedicated, not-for-profit community group caring for our coast, bushland, and heritage since 1973. The group works with local partners with the support of 15 Friends Groups, to advocate and protect our unique environment.

Whether you enjoy nature walks, local history, or lending your voice to important causes, your involvement makes a real difference. Connect with like-minded locals, share your knowledge, and help keep our Peninsula special for future generations.

For more information:

- 📧 nepeanconservationgroup.org.au
- ✉ info@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au
- ☎ 0408 877 852 (Ursula)



Have you seen the latest MPS Positive Ageing newsletter where the NCG gets a mention? LINK: [Positive Ageing Newsletter](#). Thank you to Laurencia.

POINT NEPEAN NATIONAL PARK UPDATES

While the Point Nepean Advisory Group has formally wound up, PV continues to work with the community representatives. June 2025 updates are summarised below:

1. The Universities have formally taken possession of the site and will commence early works as part of the development (vegetation removal, historic and archaeological test surveys, engineering assessments).
2. Interpretive signage has now been installed in the Boiler House. External signs along Coles Track and the Journey Through Time are due for installation at the start of July.
3. PV met on site with the Bunurong CEO, in May 2025. The meeting focused on the entrance station and lease opportunities for the Bunurong at PNNP more broadly.
4. PV ran a great rabbit and fox control program through the Quarantine station which removed 60 rabbits, 7 foxes and 5 feral cats. The integrated program included shooting, leg hold trapping and cage trapping over a 2-week period, and several buildings will now be warren proofed.
5. An expression of interest will go out this month inviting contractors to a site meeting ahead of the Forts project being formally advertised for tender. The tender process is planned to occur through July/August.
6. Contractors will be onsite mid-June at the Forts to deliver ground penetrating radar investigation to locate the water pipes for the Gun emplacements 5 and 6 to identify the blockages to rectify
7. Mid-June an EOI for a single Ghost Tour, Licensed Tour Operator will be released.
8. Remediation works to the Gunners Cottage toilets are nearly complete. They are expected to be open in the next 3-4 weeks with portables being removed off site.
9. PV staff are working on site mid-June to address the undermined concrete out the front of the 'Passenger Waiting House'.

Lots to look out for on your next visit to Point Nepean National Park.



Winter sunset, Bass Strait near Koreen Point overlooking Fowler's Beach, MPNP. Photo U de Jong