



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 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



Bayside reflections – late Autumn, beginning of Winter. Low tide and wind still, sun and clouds. Utter peace.

Photo Ursula de Jong

Welcome to your NCG June Newssheet. As always, we 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

Shannon Richards resigned from the Committee in April 2025 for personal reasons. The NCG committee thanks her for her work and dedication to the NCG, and for visiting many of our Friends Groups in situ and writing up their wonderful achievements. We wish her and her family well.

**As flagged at our 2025 AGM, here is our revised Vision and Mission.
We welcome your feedback.**



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VISION and PURPOSE

The NCG's vision is for people to understand and appreciate the environment 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.

The principal purpose of the NCG is the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment of the Nepean Peninsula, on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, through, but not limited to,

- conserving and promoting significant natural areas
- mitigating vegetation loss
- creating resilient habitat corridors and biolinks for wildlife
- highlighting issues affecting the environment
- promoting ecologically sustainable development principles

MISSION

To lead and inspire the community to appreciate, recognise, conserve, protect and celebrate the environment of the Nepean Peninsula.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND ACTIONS

- Advocate for the conservation of our environment by engaging with the community and government
- Engage with the traditional owners in caring for the environment
- Foster conservation of the vegetation, wildlife and natural attributes of the area
- Conserve, protect and enhance our environment by championing and supporting exemplary conservation policy and practice
- Maintain the character and amenity of the Nepean Peninsula by ensuring new developments are in harmony with the environment of our area
- Educate and engage the community in discourse about our environment and its contribution to our sense of place and belonging

VALUES

- Independent – operate without fear or favour
- Trustworthy – to be open and transparent in our work on behalf of the community which we serve
- Inspirational – awaken awareness and garner inter-generational support: conservation is our bridge to the future

ROLE

- To be an innovative, effective and respected conservation group
- To fulfill our obligations with diligence and determination
- To remain a strong independent voice for conservation on the Nepean Peninsula

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

The NCG Inc acknowledges the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet and work: the Bunurong people. We acknowledge their custodianship over eons, over lands never ceded and their continuing care of country, sea and sky. We pay our respects to their elders past and present.

SUCCESS: Coast Care Grant - Restoring and conserving a coastal environment - Sorrento Back Beach, Mornington Peninsula National Park, working with PV and Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club [SSLSC].



The Nepean Conservation Group Inc has worked in partnership with PV over a number of years in this location, repairing infrastructure and pruning vegetation for access. This project will undertake • on-ground actions to conserve, restore and protect the environment through weed control and revegetation • using an experienced contractor to remove woody weeds for site preparation for volunteers • education and engagement opportunities through community events and activities We will undertake targeted environmental work to remove woody weeds [polygala, Italian buckthorn, boxthorn, etc] and invasive creepers [Dolichos, Smilax, etc]. Then undertake hand weeding and remedial complementary planting.

Project aim: to create a resilient biodiverse habitat in the Sorrento Back Beach precinct of the Mornington Peninsula National Park [MPNP]. We will undertake targeted environmental work to remove woody weeds [polygala, Italian buckthorn, boxthorn, etc] and invasive creepers [Dolichos, Smilax, etc]. Then undertake hand weeding to allow regeneration of indigenous plants and support this with remedial complementary planting.

Issues the project addresses: restoring a weed infested precinct of the MPNP. Sorrento Back Beach is a small much visited and highly used area of the MPNP. We cannot restore the whole MPNP - but we can tackle a small section. There are many good patches of vegetation in this amphitheatre precinct. With the help of contractors and volunteers we can restore and consolidate this quality habitat, then move out from there to tackle further areas in the future.

Opportunities: to support our Parks Estate in a practical and meaningful way by restoring part of the MPNP. This will showcase our indigenous vegetation, our unique coastal habitat, our endangered moonah woodland and coastal heath habitats to our many visitors, tourists, and local communities. By restoring a highly frequented precinct we will raise awareness and understanding of our unique and fragile coastal environment. In this way we will begin to educate our wider community. Once people have a little more knowledge they may be motivated to learn more and care for these habitats and to value the indigenous flora, fauna and birds.

Benefits: the project will deliver a more resilient habitat at Sorrento Back Beach. The stairs and tracks will continue to provide access to spectacular views, but people will be also be made aware of the unique coastal vegetation of this precinct. By walking through coastal habitat, the ecology, the biodiversity across seasons, the layers [ground covers, shrubs, trees] needed to create a thriving habitat for the flora, fauna and birds will be made evident.

The NCG is pleased to receive this grant of \$10k from the Victorian State Government, DEECA.
Work begins! PV consents and permits are being put in place now for on ground work from 1 August 2025.

Planning Panel Amendment C286morn: Ocean Beach Road Sorrento Built Form Review.

The Planning Panel hearing took place on 7, 8 and 9 May 2025. The NCG participated in the full hearing, and Dr de Jong presented on behalf of the NCG on Thursday 8 May.

The NCG affirmed the nature of Sorrento as a small historic coastal village on the Nepean Peninsula on the tip of the Mornington Peninsula. We highlighted the need for respecting and conserving its character and scale, including its limestone buildings (mostly 2 storeys), the wide streets, the laneways and 'gaps' between buildings for views and glimpses of place. Ocean Beach Road links Sorrento bayside with Bass Strait at Sorrento back beach. The natural amphitheatres and surrounding dunes form the place we know as Sorrento [see view from Kerford Hill below]. Ocean Beach Road climbs from the bay to the ridge and forms the linear spine of the village – commercial [the subject of this hearing] and residential, before descending to the ocean beach.



Inappropriate development has already occurred (and has been acknowledged in reports to the Mornington Peninsula Shire over a number of years) and the NCG wishes to ensure this practice does not continue, hence the urgent need for mandatory heights and setbacks in Ocean Beach Road. We continue to support height and setback mandates. While the background to the amendment and chronology of events detailed the long process from 2016-2025, it did not record the community angst and concern, the many permit applications and development proposals along Ocean Beach Road, each considered separately, the constant development pressures faced by Sorrento village and the missed opportunities to protect and enhance its historic coastal character. The NCG argued that "mistakes" labelled as "emerging character" should not be replicated or used as precedents.

All participants agreed that mandatory heights were needed to protect the commercial precinct of Sorrento. The NCG disagreed with the MPSC heights [9m] and setbacks [4m]. We argued for 8m height limit and an 8m setback for the third story. Currently a variety of setbacks contribute to the character of Sorrento. The expert witnesses claimed that Ocean Beach Road is too wide and spacious, and a more intimate atmosphere could be achieved with a more enclosed streetscape. Sorrento was created with wide streets from its very beginnings! A "tunnel vision" as presented by the experts does not change the expansive street into an "intimate and inviting public realm" but rather destroys the current look and feel of place.

In relation to amenity impacts, the NCG argued that the Amendment needs to ensure that the context is at the forefront of any development or redevelopment. Apart from the scale, form, materiality, etc, the **quality** of new buildings and works is critical to the protection of place, sustainability and the longevity of the environment.

The panel will present its findings and recommendations 30 days from the end of the hearing process [closed off on 16 May]. The MPS can accept all recommendations, some of the recommendations or none of the recommendations, and must respond in writing to the panel. The MPS must make public the panel report and recommendations 10 days after receipt.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council recent decisions

Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club [SSLSC] decision

The MPSC granted a permit to the SSLSC with 45 conditions in March 2025. The work of demolition begins in the next few months.

Rescinding Climate emergency plan and other matters.

On 20 May the President wrote to each MPS Councillor on behalf of the NCG:

The Nepean Conservation Group Inc [NCG] has major concerns regarding recent decision making by the MPSC. The decisions associated with the rescinding of the climate emergency plan, removal of funding to climate, environment, arts and culture, heritage, First Nation's groups, Lospalos, shire employees, etc are shocking – and appear to have all been made without any community consultation, advice, or inputs. The reports in the *Southern Peninsula News* 14 May 2025 “Winners and losers in budget shakeup” provide no comfort that decisions have been carefully considered. Listening to the MPSC meeting recording [Tuesday 6 May] provides no answers. We cannot see any evidence or rationale for the cuts. One of the critical issues for us, is the lack of evidence supporting the decisions made. And further, the lack of detail around the highly publicised 'new framework'.

On Monday 21 April 2025 I wrote to Cr Andrea Allen, our Nepean Ward Councillor:

I am writing on behalf of the NCG in regards to Tuesday 22/04 Council meeting, when it appears that Council will be voting on a motion to rescind the Climate Emergency Plan and the climate emergency declaration. ... this Plan is one of Councils' few success stories. The NCG is against any decision to rescind the Plan or significantly cut program funding. The impacts of Climate change and global warming are very noticeable on the Mornington Peninsula. They range from severe weather events impacting coastal areas and terrestrial areas alike; warmer water temperatures [for example Bass Strait has been 3.5 to 2.4 degrees warmer than for this same time of year over summer/autumn]; coastal erosion is severe; sea level rises are imminent and need to be planned for; rainfall is not as reliable or consistent; vegetation removal is rampant alongside development, when we should be actively revegetating to mitigate temperature rises, and provide shade for housing and negating heat island effects in our townships.

We should be ramping up our responses to Climate change and global warming to ensure a sustainable future for the Mornington Peninsula. We have a responsibility to care for our environment on the Mornington Peninsula and a duty of care for all people who call the Mornington Peninsula home.

Disappointingly, no reply was received.

At a time when our world must face the escalating impacts of climate change and global warming, we need to **review** our policies and strategies to mitigate these and ensure that we are doing our utmost for nurturing biodiversity and creating resilient ecosystems on the Mornington Peninsula, **NOT** rescinding the Climate Emergency Plan and the climate emergency declaration. We, the people who live and work on the Mornington Peninsula and you as our representatives, have an obligation and responsibility to protect and care for this unique coastal environment.

We have almost 10% of Victoria's coastline on the Mornington Peninsula. Indeed, the MPS website boasts that “With 192 kilometres of coastline along Port Phillip and Western Port, Mornington Peninsula Shire has a strong interest and long-standing commitment to being leaders in coastal planning and management”. The extent is even greater if we include the National Parks that border the Shire. Further, the Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge is one of Victoria's most important assets. Approximately 70% of the Shire's land mass is comprised of the Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge which is all land outside the metropolitan Urban Growth Boundary [refer to MORNINGTON PENINSULA GREEN WEDGE, MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1 April 2019]. The special role and character of the Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge continues to be highly valued by both the local community and the wider population of Melbourne. The Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge delivers a range

of benefits including, an area of outstanding natural beauty, diverse landscapes and cultural heritage, as well as areas of high conservation significance and habitat value.

There appears to be a major philosophical shift occurring at council level in the MPS. The NCG has grave fears for the Mornington Peninsula. Strategies for tourism and visitors have their place – but not at the expense of caring for this unique peninsula. Indeed, destroying place at this critical time will drive tourists/visitors away.

The Mornington Peninsula, a distinctive area and landscape 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. Rescinding the climate emergency plan, removal of funding to climate, environment, arts and culture, heritage, First Nation's groups, and MPS employees is taking the peninsula in the opposite direction. *There is no other place like the Mornington Peninsula.* The NCG would appreciate a response from each of you in relation to these grave concerns.

Matters before Council on Tuesday 20 May 2025

The NCG has written to all councillors already on the beach cleaning/raking [25 March 2025]. As the decision was postponed, we reiterate our points again:

The recommended option in the papers was 70% hand cleaning and 30% mechanical. The NCG have serious questions around this recommendation. The NCG can see the benefits of mechanical raking in some instances of excessive build-up of weeds on swimming beaches, but the 70:30 proposal is too vague. Who decides when, where or why. And would a mechanical rake be followed by a hand rake to pick up debris missed? Further, the report does not indicate any reason to bring back the rake.

Overall, the NCG supports 100% hand cleaning to ensure the care and protection of the beach environment as a whole. In situations of excessive build-up of weed on swimming beaches, mechanical raking may augment the hand cleaning, not the other way round.

The recommendation should be 100% hand cleaning. We really need to see the 12 months of data before we make any decisions. The evidence suggests hand cleaning is working so why not continue the trial? Surely this is one way to protect the seaweed eco system by not putting it into land fill. It is also a cost saving re landfill Government charges due to less weight going into landfill.

The best thing to do at this time is to continue with the hand cleaning and to gather the data for 12 months and even extend it for another six months so that we can see the effectiveness of hand cleaning coming into the winter period.

Update: The MPSC revoked hand cleaning and is reinstating mechanical beach raking. The NCG has voiced its disappointment with the decision and vowed to continue to advocate for our environment and hold authorities to account.

2025-26 MPSC budget responses refer to:

<https://shape.mornpen.vic.gov.au/budget-2025-26>



Newsletter May2025

Link: <https://mailchi.mp/aca3b7c0f111/mpln-december-newsletter-5847411?e=26c593851f>

Special Feature: Investigating Potential Mornington Peninsula Impacts of a Warming and Drying Climate

Environmental Justice Australia [EJA]

<https://envirojustice.org.au/>

May 31, 2025: This week, newly appointed Environment Minister Murray Watt indicated his intention to approve a 40-year extension to Woodside's massive North West Shelf gas project.

The decision came after the proposal had sat on ice for six years, and is new Environment Minister Senator Watt's first major approval.

"This is a real climate bomb," said Christine Carlisle, President of the Environment Council of Central Queensland (ECoCeQ), a volunteer community group represented by Environmental Justice Australia. "It's an act of wilful environmental vandalism and a betrayal of future generations."

Days earlier, Senator Watt refused to act on a legal request ECoCeQ that asked the Minister to properly assess the climate impacts of the North West Shelf extension on thousands of nationally significant species, places and ecological communities.

ECoCeQ also ran a related series of landmark court cases, known as the [Living Wonders](#) climate cases.

What is the North West Shelf project?

Woodside's North West Shelf project, located near Karratha in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, is the country's largest gas development. It consists of vast offshore extraction operations and extensive onshore infrastructure for gas processing, storage and export as liquified fossil gas (LNG).

Originally due to close in 2030, Woodside has now been granted approval to continue operating the project until 2070. It is projected that the project will contribute almost 4 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the extension, most of it released when the gas is eventually burned.



EJA: Fifty-seven years ago, Australians voted to change the Constitution – recognising First Nations peoples as part of the population and granting the Commonwealth power to make laws for them. It was a powerful act of solidarity and a major milestone in the journey toward reconciliation.

This National Reconciliation Week (27–31 May), we have been honouring that legacy with An Act a Day, a week-long social media series inviting action grounded in truth-telling, justice and First Nations leadership.

This year's theme – **Bridging Now to Next** – asks us to reflect on the connections between past, present and future. Reconciliation isn't just about what came before – it's about how we show up today and commit to a more just tomorrow.

Each day, we've been sharing a simple but meaningful action you can take: **from learning and listening to supporting First Nations-led campaigns and initiatives.**

[Join us @envirojustice au to take an Act a Day >](#)



Friends group working bee 1 June 2025 – planting in the St JohnsWood Road linear bushland reserve, adjacent to the Bridgewater Bay carpark. After three years of supplemental planting, we are beginning to see what a difference volunteers make, working alongside the MPS and with the Natural Systems team and contractors NatureLinks. Photo, Eddy de Jong



<https://vnpa.org.au/>

https://vnpa.org.au/nature-lacklustre-state-budget/?utm_source=Supporters&utm_campaign=4ea7f1a63e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_05_budget&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6b400e6d6c-23af1e7c31-567530930&mc_cid=4ea7f1a63e&mc_eid=a00e49f60f

NEWS 29 May 2025: The Victorian Government delivered a budget of mixed messages for those who grasp the importance of protecting our natural web of life.

Victorian Labor's [budget included a 20 per cent funding slash](#) to overall nature protection, with more cuts expected this year. This short-sighted approach also locked in cuts to core programs and staff, directly harming our ability to properly look after our wildlife, rivers, waterways and forests.

Concerning Cuts

- Parks Victoria faces ongoing funding cuts from last year with minimal new support, raising questions about the state's ability to protect our most precious natural areas.
- [Fisheries enforcement continues to be gutted](#), with almost half of fisheries officers facing the axe. This still leaves our coastlines and waterways dangerously exposed to poaching and illegal fishing.
- Public service reductions across nature protection agencies means fewer boots on the ground when and where our wildlife and habitats need it most.

The budget does include some positive developments for nature:

- Landcare receives \$17.3 million over two years for Landcare and Coastcare programs, though advocates argue this should be permanent core funding, not project-based support.
- Threatened wildlife protection gets a boost with \$2.3 million allocated for the [Liwik Barring conservation area](#).
- Around \$2 million annually for the Vertebrate Species Management Program.
- Trust for Nature sees restored funding with a welcome \$320,000 annual increase.
- Bushfire recovery receives the largest allocation at over \$20 million for Western Victoria bushfire recovery, plus \$23.5 million for planned burning and strategic fuel breaks.

What's Missing: Perhaps most disappointing is the complete absence of funding for new national parks in the central west. Despite commitments to create these parks this year, no funding has been allocated – breaking with the tradition of pairing legislation with the capital needed to establish the parks.

The budget also includes funding for “streamlining nature advice” – bureaucratic language that typically signals reduced oversight of our most special plants, animals and places.

The Bottom Line: While some targeted nature conservation programs receive support, the overall trajectory is deeply concerning for anyone who values Victoria's natural heritage.

This budget suggests nature is being pushed even [further down the government's priority list](#) at a time when pressures on our natural world are only intensifying.

For nature lovers wondering about the state's commitment to conservation, this budget sends mixed signals at best – and worrying ones at worst.

Volunteer week May 2025 a message from the MPS

National Volunteer Week is an important time to pause and recognise the incredible contributions you make—not just to your local bushland reserve, but to the broader environment and community as well. Your tireless efforts to protect and preserve biodiversity on the Mornington Peninsula are truly inspiring.

Whether you're weeding, planting trees, being a citizen scientist, or you hold the important role of bringing the hot water for the cups of tea, your collective efforts as a group create real change. The patch of bushland you care for is healthier, more vibrant, and more resilient because of you.

Thank you for your time, your energy, and your commitment to the environment. Your achievements deserve to be celebrated—not just this week, but all year round.

Happy National Volunteer Week! ❤️🐣🌱

Kind regards,
Hannah



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

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

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Follow us on social media!



The NCG proudly sponsors friends' groups on the Nepean Peninsula. We are in the process writing a new environmental agreement with the MPS for the next five years.

Below: Yellow breasted robin keeping an eye on the volunteers at the working bee at St JohnsWood Rd! Photos: U de Jong



Imperial Jezebels

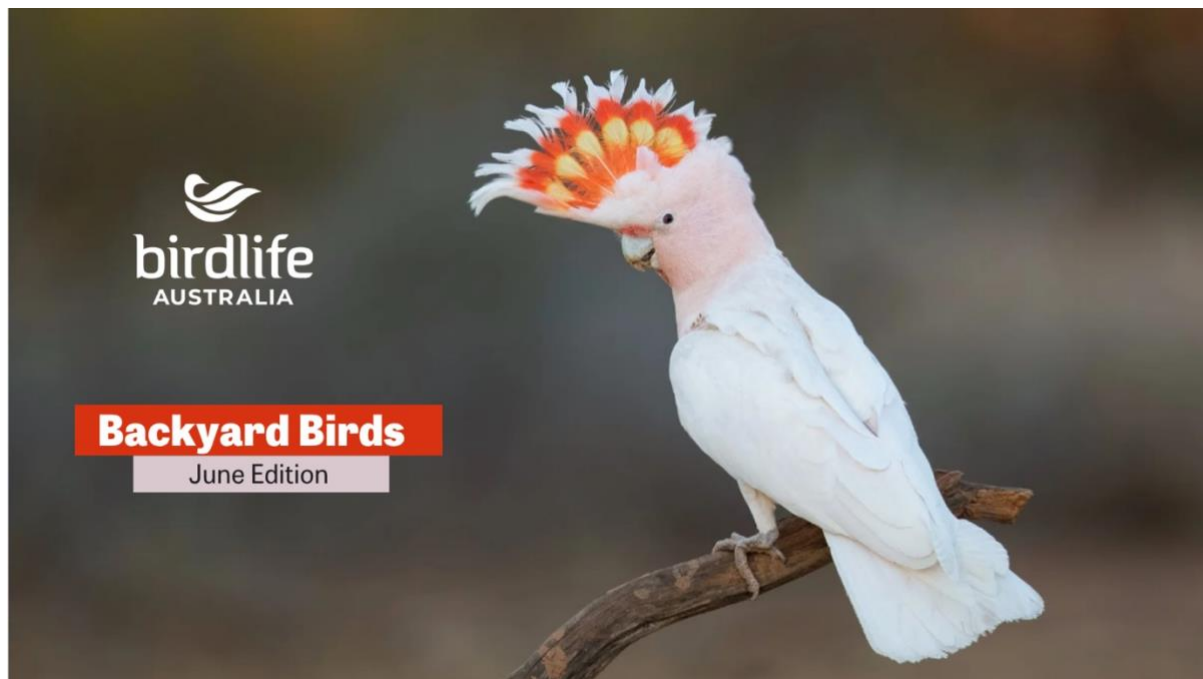
These large and graceful butterflies are white and edged in black and grey when their wings are open and flat. When they alight on a flower to feed, their wings are held together and upright, and you can see their long black clubbed antennae, furry yellow body and wings with a striking chequered pattern of bright red, yellow, white and black. Photographed at Bridgewater Bay, Mornington Peninsula National Park 29 May 2025 by U de Jong.



From Birdlife Australia:

Discover five simple garden tasks, survey updates, and new resources for bird lovers.

Email not displaying properly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



We've packed this Birds in Backyards newsletter with ways to learn, take action, and connect your backyard to bird conservation across Australia this winter. From digging into seasonal data to digging into your garden, there's something for every bird-loving household.



Our next Birds Meet Webinar!

Albatrosses are among the most extraordinary seabirds on the planet, gliding for thousands of kilometres across the oceans with barely a flap of their wings. And did you know Australia is home to its very own species, the Shy Albatross?

This World Albatross Day, join Dr Yuna Kim, BirdLife Australia's Seabird Program Coordinator, for a deep dive into the lives of these ocean wanderers. This is one not to miss!

— [Register Now](#)

Birds in Backyards Surveys

Winter often brings a change in bird activity. New species arrive, familiar ones move on, and flocks gather in different ways. I'm already seeing wintering Pied Currawongs gathering at my place.

Your Birds in Backyards survey data contributes to long-term research, informs urban habitat management, and even supports university student projects! Check out some past findings and get involved this June and July.

— [Check out past findings](#)

— [Get Involved](#)



Habitat Gardening Course – dig in!

Our Habitat Gardening for Birds online course is getting rave reviews: “The philosophies of Birdlife are apparent throughout the units and it has encouraged me to get involved. The birdlife data set was a great discovery. It has encouraged me to start doing regular surveys. The course has encouraged and equipped me to look more holistically at the spaces around my house and I have planted shrubs in my back yard as an understory.”

You can now start anytime and work through at your own pace. It's free, friendly, and full of inspiration so sign up today.

— [Sign up now!](#)

Birds in Schools up and running

Teachers! Our flagship program for Year 3–6 students is now easier to access, with everything on our new online platform and classroom ready. Help your students connect with nature, learn scientific thinking, and take real-world action for birds.

— [Sign up now!](#)



5 Tweaks for your Winter Garden

Try these five simple garden tasks, from fertilising native plants to dividing clumping species, that help keep your space healthy and ready for the seasons ahead. These small changes can boost habitat value for birds and give your garden a head start before spring.

— [Read Here](#)

Don't forget you can catch up on all our past webinars, bird-friendly gardening info and general birdy goodness on our [YouTube channel](#).



[Dr Holly Parsons](#)

Manager Priority Sites

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Nepean Conservation Group Inc coastal ramble Portsea to London Bridge 23 March 2025

The **Nepean Conservation Group [NCG]** led a stunning coastal moonah woodland ramble along the Farnsworth Track to the beginning of the Wilson's Folly Track. This beautiful walk along sandy tracks, steps and stairs, took us from Portsea to London Bridge through some of the outstanding coastal vegetation of the Mornington Peninsula National Park. Five amazing lookouts offered breathtaking views to Bass Strait, the coastal fringe and across the Peninsula to the Bay. All 18 participants had a great "nature dose", lots of conversations, and lots of catch ups, with a morning tea stop at London Bridge. With lowish tide, we did the return walk along the beach, and only two ramblers got wet feet!



A perfect partly cloudy day for walking. Climbs rewarded with views!



A few of the intrepid ramblers after morning tea, before the return walk along the beach.



Swallows and magpies hoping to be rewarded with crumbs from morning teas enjoyed in our coastal bushland setting!



Finishing with a stunning walk back along the ocean beach, London Bridge to Portsea – fresh air, ozone, crashing waves.

A reminder of our fragile dynamic coast: May/ June 2025



View from London Bridge towards the Sphinx. Stair collapse at the Spray Point end of Koonya ocean beach. Photos U de Jong

A reminder that we live on a dynamic coast. Ever changing. Impact on the infrastructure in the Mornington Peninsula National Park and the Point Nepean National Park is ongoing and often severe. We need to work with nature to ensure that our wonderful National Parks can remain “Open and Accessible”. We need to work with the Bunurong Land Council to ensure sound cultural heritage management plans are in place in our National Parks. We cannot do all of this without resources, proper ongoing funding and people on the ground.



Damaged infrastructure along the Bass Strait coast in the Mornington Peninsula National Park and pounding surf tides.



POINT NEPEAN NATIONAL PARK UPDATES The NCG put in significant submissions to both Heritage Victoria and the State Government to reconsider the footprint and design of the Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station. Permits and planning amendment have now been approved by HV and the Minister.



Department of Transport and Planning

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www.dtp.vic.gov.au

Dr Ursula de Jong
President
Nepean Conservation Group
Email: president@nepeanconservationgroup.org.au

Dear Dr de Jong

MORNINGTON PENINSULA PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C309MORN

I am writing to advise you that I have decided, under delegation from the Minister for Planning, to exercise the power under section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to prepare, adopt and approve Amendment C309morn to the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme and exempt the amendment from notice requirements.

The effect of the amendment is to amend the schedules to Clause 45.12, Clause 72.03 and Clause 72.04 and apply a Specific Controls Overlay to 3880 Point Nepean Road, Portsea to introduce the incorporated document, Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station, May 2025.

The effect of the amendment will allow development of the Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station within the historic Point Nepean Quarantine Station Complex, located within the Point Nepean National Park in Portsea, Victoria. The incorporated document facilitates the adaptive reuse of the Badcoe Hall building for research and education purposes and the construction of a new double storey building to accommodate students and staff on site.

I note the matters raised during the consultation process, including concerns about impact on the environment, heritage impact, traffic, extent of community consultation and suitability for the use within the national park.

The Incorporated Document includes requirements to ensure impacts to Point Nepean National Park are minimised and consistent with park's master plan, including the requirement for:

- a Construction Management Plan
- an Environmentally Sustainable Design report
- Waste Management Plan
- Transport Management Plan
- Landscape Plan
- Vegetation Management and Protection Plan.

These reports and plans will be required to be submitted and approved prior to the main works.

The amendment will come into effect when notice of its approval is published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*.



Carmel Hourigan – “Moonahs”. An artist inspired by place.



Carmel comments:

"We have a wonderful and natural environment here on the Peninsula".

"I am happy communing with trees ..."

"I spent a peaceful afternoon painting under the trees. Writing, photography, painting etc are great ways to feel more deeply connected to a place".

This Winter take some time to do some "slow walking", to look and see again, to breathe deeply. Take time to enjoy our remarkable Mornington Peninsula.



Moonah sculpture and moonah seedpods, Mornington Peninsula National Park, May 2025. Photos U de Jong