

Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council Inc

Incorporated Association Reg. No. A15886H ABN 984 610 14730 PO Box 9 Hastings Vic 3915

Newsletter December 2014



Announcing our **AGM** at Balnarring Hall Frankston- Flinders Road
Balnarring **Sunday 11th January 2015 10.30am ...then lunch**

Guest Speakers Chris Smyth and Jenny Warfe



Chris Smyth, is the Policy Director at the Australian Oceans Institute, as well as a private consultant specialising in research, analysis, project management and writing of environment-focused publications. Prior to that he was the Healthy Oceans Campaigner at the Australian Conservation Foundation, and he co-ordinated the marine national parks campaign at the Victorian National Parks Association .

What if we didn't build a massive port? WHAT if the Victorian Government abandoned plans to expand the Port of Hastings and invested in regional development and public transport instead?

That's one of the scenarios developed in a future envisaged at a scenario planning workshop held at Newhaven Yacht Squadron in July. The workshop was led by Australian National University Professor and leading environmental ecologist Robert Costanza, who was joined by students as well as Bass Coast councillors, Tourism Industry Professionals, Parks Vic, industry and environmental specialists. Over five days, the participants developed four different scenarios for Western Port's future.



Jenny Warfe (*centre*) **WOWing them on French Island.** Jenny was involved in the Port Phillip Channel Deepening campaign from 2003 until the project completion in 2009. She has since raised concerns about the likely environmental impacts of an expanded Hastings Port and the Channel Deepening project. The Port of Melbourne Corporation's predictions for growth in shipping numbers has yet to materialise. Hence the project's Cost Benefit analysis has been entirely discredited and was clearly confirmed in figures produced by Dr. Hermoine Parsons, VU Institute of Supply Chain Logistics. **Build it- but will they come?** There has barely been a whimper from the media regarding this. Her careful research and direct delivery has made her an immensely important speaker in the Westernport Campaign. We look forward to welcoming her at our AGM.

**Ramsar Secretariat - Secretary General Dr Christopher Briggs meets
with Non Government Organisation representatives
at Hastings on November 10th**



Cecilia Witton,-Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Biosphere, Karri Giles, and Brian Cuming - WPPC, Jenny Warfe- Blue Wedges, Dr Christopher Briggs- Ramsar, Chris Chandler- French Island Landcare, Roger Richards- Birdlife Australia, Ross Jessop -Wader-Bird Studies Group.

The Federal Government invited some NGOs to speak with Dr Christopher Briggs as he requested at Hastings. He had been taken to see Warneet and the boardwalk from Jack's Beach. We pointed out where a proposed port would be located and gave him a copy of Preserve Westernport's wonderful Discussion Paper. <http://www.preservewesternport.org.au/maps/>.

He spoke of his experience of Westernport Bay and stressed the importance of enjoying and protecting our wetlands. He was going to attend a seminar in Sydney and had organized a visit to Westernport as a priority. He also had a meeting with Greg hunt. It was good for Tim and I to see him again and it made our trip to Switzerland, to put a spotlight on Westernport worthwhile. (Karri Giles)

Will Westernport be assessed under State or Federal Assessment processes?

The Greens and minority parties blocked the Federal Environment Minister's Bill in the Senate to hand over Federal Environment approvals to the States. The move in the Senate has effectively stopped Greg Hunt's handover of approvals to the States for now. This legislation is abhorrent. If passed it would allow any future Federal Environmental Minister to divulge environmental assessment powers to the states. Greg Hunt promises that it hasn't affected his pledge " We have always pledged that it (Westernport) will be assessed under Federal Law. That remains and will be the case. I have been express, clear and absolute on that. The assessment under Federal Law is certain."

REMINDER – ARCHIVES PROJECT - APPEAL FOR FUNDS and ASSISTANCE

The Archives Project has progressed well, and lots of information is now easy to find.
A reminder please ... if you can spare a few dollars or a few hours of your time, please contact us.

Donations – please address to – “The Archives Project”, WPPC, PO Box 9 Hastings Vic 3915.
Or deposit directly into our account: Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council. National Australia Bank
BSB: 083527 Account 025802659
and email Sheila Ker she.ker953@hotmail.com for a tax deductible donation receipt.

Time to help – please ring Linda on 0409 602 822.

Thankyou very much



The Hastings Rally on November 16th 2014

- Photo taken from the
flotilla on the water.

We then moved to the Fred
Smith Reserve and there were
information stalls, and
speeches by WPPC, Preserve
Westernport, The Greens, Sea
Sheppard and French Island
Port Stoppers.

Well done all involved,
especially Louise, David,
Russell, me andSheila
proved she was a real salty sea
dog that day!



Pt Leo Vintage Surf Day Information stall

Preserve Western Port and
WPPC held at

Thanks Graeme Hanigan,
Russell, Sheila, Rosie, Tim and
me.

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