

Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2011



**Celebrating and recognising the great work
achieved by groups, individuals, businesses,
schools, agencies and governments to protect and
enhance Victoria's magnificent and unique coastal
and marine environments**



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Coastal Building and Design Award Winner

Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club

Inverloch SLSC Clubhouse

The design and construction of the Inverloch Surf Life Saving clubhouse was undertaken with the needs of the environment and a wide range of community groups in mind.

Set behind the primary dune, it protects coastal viewlines and the delicate sand dune environment.

The building incorporates passive heating and cooling elements in addition to power and water saving design features.



Community Action and Partnerships Award – Joint Winner

Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group



Over the past 16 years the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group has promoted the improvement of coastal and marine environments and community wellbeing.

The Group has taken the lead with a number of innovative and award winning conservation projects.

Among its many achievements, it has undertaken significant revegetation of the Warrnambool foreshore and the Merri River estuary; increased community awareness and involvement in coastal conservation work and saved a penguin population.

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Community Action and Partnerships – Joint Winner

Reel Scientists Volunteer Angler Diary

The Volunteer Angler Diary program involves the collection of information about recreational fishing and fish stocks in Victoria by 296 passionate volunteer anglers.

The 'Reel Scientists' program provides an innovative, remarkably cost-effective and valuable service to the Department of Primary Industry scientists and fisheries managers.

Now in its 15th year of operation, the volunteer Angler diary program has improved our scientific understanding of fish stocks across Victoria.



Education Award Winner

Barwon Coast Committee of Management "Connecting Communities" Education Program



Barwon Coast is committed to coastal and marine biodiversity and encourages environmental awareness through a range of practical projects and educational opportunities offered to locals and visitors.

Key messages conveyed through the education program include responsible pet ownership, the value of indigenous flora and fauna, controlled access to protect dunes systems and threatened species issues.

In addition to greater awareness, the education program has led to improved communication, a decline in dog control breaches and an increase in students seeking work placements with Barwon Coast.

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Victorian Marine Science Consortium Award

Post Graduate Award Winner

Ben Wegener

For his significant
contribution to
marine research
in Victoria



Natural Environment Award Winner

Birds Australia Beach Nesting Birds Conservation Project



The beach-nesting birds project actively protects Hooded Plover breeding sites on the Victorian coast, empowering community groups to take the lead and conserve this flagship species.

Last season's production of 60 fledged chicks is higher than any other season and shows the project is working.

"Hoodies" are an excellent indicator of healthy beaches where recreation is balanced with coastal needs. Birds Australia engage and advise managers to accomplish this balance.

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Coastal Planning and Management Award Winner

Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site Steering Committee “Working together for the Port Phillip Ramsar Site”

The Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site is one of only 11 wetlands in Victoria listed on the Convention of Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971) because of its significance for migratory birds.

The sites proximity to the densely populated areas of Melbourne and Geelong provide many environmental challenges for the wetlands.

Since late 2008 the Steering Committee has sought and obtained significant site investment, delivered improved pest management, informed and provided opportunities for engagement of local communities and established a framework for improved cooperation across the site.



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Outstanding Individual Achievement Award



Don McTaggart

As the long time leader of the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group, Don McTaggart had a monumental influence within the Warrnambool community. A chef by trade, with a keen interest in sustainable gardening and self-sufficiency, Don proved that with a little bit of enthusiasm, anyone can make a difference to the world around them, regardless of qualifications, barriers or background.

Upon moving to Warrnambool in 2000, Don quickly set about finding opportunities to contribute to environment protection, as he had done in his previous hometown in Northern Queensland. Don focussed his efforts on working to revive the Warrnambool City Landcare Group and quickly turned the ailing group into a vibrant and dynamic force.

Through group projects such as Harris on Merri Revegetation, Middle Island Penguin Monitoring and the Weed Warriors Program, Don guided the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group to make real and significant improvements to local biodiversity. One of his greatest achievements was contributing to the Middle Island Maremma Project, a community-Government partnership which has brought about a remarkable recovery after years of fox predation very nearly wiped the Little Penguin colony out.

Don was passionately dedicated to the cause and many people were in awe of his ability to attend so many meetings, answer every email and phone call and always turn up to community events. He always remembered names and faces and was genuinely interested in what he could do to encourage the latent environmental awareness he believed was within every person he met.

Don lost his battle with cancer in December 2010, a loss that has dealt an enormous blow to the Warrnambool community. Don leaves behind him the legacy of a community of people more determined than ever to continue his good work. The coastal environments of Warrnambool will forever be healthier, happier and more sustainable because of his overwhelming dedication and the environmental guardians he nurtured.

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All Finalists

Category	Nominee	Project Description
Coastal Building & Design	Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club	Inverloch Surf Life Saving Clubhouse
	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee	Split Point Lookout
	Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc	Ocean Grove Main Beach gets a new Amenity Block
	Aspect Studios Pty Ltd	Elwood Foreshore
Community Action & Partnerships	Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group	Promoting the improvement of coastal and marine environments and community wellbeing
	Reel Scientists	Reel Scientists Volunteer Angler Diary Program
	Port Campbell Community Group	Conserving and protecting Port Campbell Headland
	Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association	Cape Paterson Foreshore Revegetation
	Two Bays Partnership	Two Bays Partnership
	Barwon Coast Committee of Management	Coastal Moonah Woodland Protection and Enhancement
Education	Barwon Coast Committee of Management	Connecting communities to the coast through education
	Phillip Island Nature Parks	Project Penguin Homes
	Birds Australia	Shorebird education program
	Dolphin Research Institute	'i sea i care'
	Marine Discovery Centre	Careers Discovery Program
VMSC Award	Ben Wegener	
Natural Environment	Birds Australia	Beach nesting birds conservation project
	East Gippsland Shire Council	Urban Waterways program around East Gippsland Coastal townships
	Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group	Conserving Penguin habitat on the coast
Coastal Planning and Management	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site Steering Committee	Working together for the Port Phillip Ramsar Site
	Planisphere Pty Ltd	Planning Scheme Protection of Significant Coastal Landscapes
	Glenelg Hopkins Coastal & Marine Working Group	Glenelg Hopkins Coastal & Marine Working Group
Outstanding Individual Achievement	Don McTaggart	