

Media Release

The Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Water



Thursday, 15 October, 2015

CELEBRATING OUR COASTAL CHAMPIONS

Victoria's coastal champions were the toast of the annual Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence last night, with nine awards presented by the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville, to recipients from around the State.

The Awards, held by the Victorian Coastal Council, celebrate the outstanding work of individuals and groups in enhancing and protecting Victoria's coastal and marine environments.

Awards winners in each category were:

Natural Environment (2x): Parks Victoria and Sea Search Program - Ten Years of Corner Inlet Community Seagrass Monitoring & Jan Juc Coast Action Group - 21 Years of Jan Juc Coast Action

Education: Birdlife Australia - Bringing the coast to the classroom

Planning and Management: Environmental Protection Authority - The Victorian Marine Operational Model

Community Engagement: Friends of Beware Reef - Community Engagement & Marine Species Monitoring

Design and Building: Frankston City Council - McCulloch Avenue Boardwalk

Victorian Marine Science Consortium – Postgraduate Award: Marlene Rodriguez-Malagon - Postgraduate marine research

Outstanding Individual Achievement – Bob Semmens

There is more than 2500 kilometres of coastline within Victoria, with 96% of it publically accessible. The Awards support and showcase the diversity of important work happening on the coast, with the focus of projects ranging from local weed removal to the development of cutting edge technology.

Speaking at the Awards, Ms Neville introduced the newly appointed Victorian Coastal Council Chair, Cathy Whelan; and members Belinda Ainley, Anthony Boxshall, Michelle Croughan, Stacey Daniel, Cr Richard Ellis, Rob Gell AM, Ross Kilborn, Cr Jill Parker and David Provis.

The Council will play an integral role in the implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy and supporting the Victorian Government in delivering a range of initiatives for the protection and enhancement of marine and coastal environments.

Quotes attributable to Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville

"The Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence recognise outstanding efforts by individuals, groups, businesses and schools in protecting Victoria's coastal and marine environments, and this year's finalists and award winners have been exemplary."

"I'm proud of how we take real responsibility for the welfare of our coast, which not only improves the health of the environment, but also the liveability of our communities."

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“It is important we understand the threats to our coastal and marine environments, and the ways in which communities can take action to help limit their impacts.”

2015 Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence finalists and winners

Category	Nominee	Name of Nomination
Natural Environment		
Finalist:	Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority	RAMSAR Protection Program
Joint Winner:	Jan Juc Coast Action Group	21 Years of Jan Juc Coast Action
Joint Winner:	Sea Search Program, Parks Victoria	Ten Years of Corner Inlet Community Seagrass Monitoring
Education		
Finalist	Making a Difference (MAD) for the Merri & Friends of Merri Marine Sanctuary	Education, engagement and action – combatting downstream water quality impacts and invasive marine pests
Finalist	Barwon Heads Primary School	Let Our Sea Be Plastic Bag Free
Special Commendation	Point Ritchie Moyjil Project Committee	Sharing Stories of Place – Point Ritchie Moyjil
Winner	BirdLife Australia	BirdLife Australia: Bringing the coast to the classroom
Planning and Management		
Finalist:	Seaspray Reserves Committee of Management	Relocation of the Seaspray Caravan Park
Finalist:	East Gippsland Water	Importance of Covering your ASS (Acid Sulfate Soils)
Finalist:	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management Inc	Corinella Coastal Reserve Management Plan 2015
Winner:	Environment Protection Authority Victoria	The Victorian Marine Operational Model
Community Engagement		
Finalist:	BeachPatrol Australia Inc	Beach Litter Cleaning
Finalist:	BirdLife Australia	A Marathon Effort: BirdLife Australia’s Hooded Plover Biennial

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Winner:	Friends of Beware Reef	Community Engagement & Marine Species Monitoring
Design and Building		
Winner:	Frankston City Council	McCulloch Avenue Boardwalk
Victorian Marine Science Consortium – Postgraduate Award		
Winner:	Marlenne Rodriguez-Malagon	Postgraduate marine research
Outstanding Individual Achievement		
Winner:	Bob Semmens	

More information about the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence is available at: www.vcc.vic.gov.au