



Media Release

From the Victorian Coastal Council

Thursday 7 January 2010

ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR EFFORTS: NOMINATE YOUR COASTAL CHAMPIONS

With Victoria's coast stretching 2,000km, those championing and protecting the state's greatest natural asset deserve to be seen and heard.

The Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence provide just that opportunity and today Libby Mears, Chair of the Victorian Coastal Council, announced that nominations for the 2010 awards are now open.

"These prestigious awards are Victoria's highest recognition of the remarkable contribution thousands of individuals and organisations make to our coast each year," Ms Mears said.

"The past decade has seen rapid change on our coast," Ms Mears said.

"We now have a system of Marine Protected Areas in place and there is now a much stronger appreciation of our coastal values."

"These awards are all about recognising the extraordinary efforts of ordinary Victorians helping to secure our coastal and marine environments for future generations, whether it's by going beyond the call of duty in their job, by community action or by displaying corporate responsibility."

Media contact: VCC Chair Libby Mears, 0400 570 287

Alternate: VCC Executive Officer David Harper, 9637 9456

Nominations are being sought in the following areas:

- Natural Environment
- Education
- Coastal Planning & Management
- Coastal Building & Design
- Community Action & Partnerships
- Individual Achievement

Last year, the awards honoured many individuals and organisations, such as the Friends of Venus Bay for their work in raising awareness of environmental weeds, the plight of bandicoots and beach nesting birds; Frankston City Council for their Coastal Arts Discovery Trail; and Isla Fitzridge, who received a Post graduate Award for her project that examines the relationship between hydroids and mussels in Port Phillip Bay.

“No one group, government or organisation can manage Victoria’s coast alone but together, the wider community and government can make a real difference,” Ms Mears said.

“We encourage everyone to nominate individuals, organisations and projects helping to protect and enhance our unique marine and coastal environments.”

More information and nomination forms are available at www.vcc.vic.gov.au or by phoning (03) 9637 9456. Nominations close 5.00pm Friday 19 February 2010.