



Media release

The Hon Ryan Smith MP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Youth Affairs

Thursday 12 September 2013

Celebrating Victoria's commitment to the coast

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith honoured the work and commitment of a range of community groups last night at the 2013 Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence.

Mr Smith said looking after the coast was a shared responsibility with the community, government and business all having a role to play.

"Around 9,000 Victorians are involved in caring for the coast through volunteer groups, committees of management or coastal boards. These people work hard to champion, conserve and manage the coast, and their work is invaluable," Mr Smith said.

"Events such as the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence are our chance to acknowledge and say thank you to everyone involved in this important work."

Chairman of the Victorian Coastal Council, Jon Hickman said the awards were an ideal opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the people who care for Victoria's coast.

"Thousands of volunteers and professionals work hard for our magnificent coast and we are grateful for their expertise, time and passion," Mr Hickman said.

"I congratulate all those who have been nominated for the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence, and those who have received awards this year."

During the awards event Mr Smith also launched the Victorian Coalition Government's draft Victorian Coastal Strategy and encouraged people to share any feedback they may have.

"The draft strategy highlights the challenges of delivering an integrated approach to the management of the coast across all sectors," Mr Smith said.

"I encourage all Victorians to take the opportunity to have a look at the draft strategy and provide feedback on this important issue."

Research commissioned by the Victorian Coastal Council found that 85 per cent of Victorians made at least one trip to the coast in the previous year and more Victorians are considering moving to the coast.

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“While Victorians love their coast and enjoy having access to it, we also need to ensure it is protected for future generations,” Mr Smith said.

“The draft strategy outlines suggested actions to support work to value and protect the coast, plan for its sustainable use, support those working to conserve it and enable appropriate use and enjoyment of these special places.”

Used by agencies and decision-makers along the coast, the strategy includes a framework for developing and implementing other plans such as coastal action plans and coastal management plans, as well as providing a coastal context for related strategies for managing catchments, planning schemes and waterways.

The Victorian Coastal Council invites people to review the draft strategy and provide their ideas, input and comments by 4 December.

The draft Victorian Coastal Strategy 2013 is at www.vcc.vic.gov.au Comments can be provided via email at submissions@vcc.vic.gov.au until Wednesday 4 December 2013.

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

2013 Victorian Coastal Awards of Excellence winners

Category	Nominee	Name of Nomination
Coastal Building & Design		
Special Commendation	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee	Split Point Lookout
Community Action & Partnerships		
Finalist	Port Campbell Community Group	Protecting and Raising Awareness of the Coast's Natural & Cultural Assets
Joint Winner	Dolphin Research Institute and City of Kingston	“i sea, i care” program
Finalist	Port Phillip Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Steering Committee	Port Phillip Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Project
Joint Winner	Disabled Surfers Association – Ocean Grove Branch	Putting Smiles on Dials
Education		
Finalist	Bunurong Coast Education	Bunurong Coast Education Program
Winner	Barwon Coast Committee of Management	Kids @ the Coast
Natural Environment		

Winner	Phillip Island Nature Parks	Saving Summerland – A Peninsula for the Penguins
Finalist	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Orange Bellied Parrot Conservation
Finalist	South Gippsland Conservation Society and Inverloch Residents and Ratepayers Association	A new Reserve at Screw Creek
Finalist	Parks Victoria	Parks Victoria Marine Science Program
Coastal Planning & Management		
Finalist	Moyne Shire Council	Port Fairy Coastal Hazard Assessment
Finalist	Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee	Coastal Management Plan
Finalist	Association of Bayside Municipalities, Municipal Association of Victoria, AECOM and Central Coastal Board	Port Phillip Bay Coastal Adaptation Pathways Project
Finalist	Melbourne Water	Understanding Western Port's Environment
Winner	Wellington Shire Council	Ninety Mile Beach Protection
Outstanding Individual Achievement		
Winner – Outstanding Individual Achievement		Kathleen Hassell
Victorian Marine Science Consortium – Postgraduate Award		
Winner	Camille White	

Media contact: James Martin 0400 744 913 james.martin@minstaff.vic.gov.au

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