

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **FINALISTS SELECTED FOR 10<sup>th</sup> VICTORIAN COASTAL AWARDS**

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Victorian Coastal Awards are set to recognise the state's coastal champions, with the announcement today of competition finalists.

Chair of the Victorian Coastal Council Libby Mears said the 36 finalists would be honoured at a gala awards ceremony on April 23.

"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," Ms Mears said.

This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence, an initiative jointly hosted by the Victorian Coastal Council and Coast Action/Coastcare.

The awards recognise and acknowledge outstanding contributions to protecting and enhancing the values of Victoria's coast — be they natural, cultural, historical, visual or built.

Nominations ranged from volunteer community groups and Government agencies, to individuals and organisations, all demonstrating the commitment of Victorians to protecting the coast.

The awards ceremony will be held in Melbourne on 23 April 2009. The winners will be announced by The Hon. Gavin Jennings MLC, Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Previous organisations to receive an award are: the Dolphin Research Institute, Hobsons Bay City Council, Bass Valley Primary School and Kerstin Thompson Architects. Previous individuals to receive an award include Associate Professor Geoff Wescott, of Deakin University, and Zoe Hogg for her work with the St Kilda Harbour Ecology Surveys.

Awards for the 2009 Coastal Awards for Excellence will be presented in 10 categories:

- Outstanding Individual Achievement
- Community Action
- Coastal Management
- Innovation
- Education
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Coastal Planning
- Coastal Culture
- Integrated Coastal and Catchment Management
- Coastal Building & Design

For more information, follow the links at [www.vcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.vcc.vic.gov.au).

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**For interviews:** VCC Chair Libby Mears on 0400 570 287.