



Media release

From the Minister for Environment and Climate Change

Wednesday, 30 April, 2008

CONDUCTORS AND KIDS TAKE HOME COASTAL HONOURS

A crew of yarning tram conductors, a primary school in the state's south-west, *Australian Geographic* and the team behind the restoration of Lorne Pier are among this year's winners in the Victorian Coastal Awards.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings presented Victorian Coastal Awards to the 13 winners at a ceremony in Port Melbourne last night as well as recognising Mogg's Creek resident Margaret MacDonald with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The Brumby Government is taking action on the environment and the community is pitching in to help manage Victoria's precious coast and is making a big difference in local initiatives," Mr Jennings said.

"This year's finalists are great examples of how individuals, business and organisations are working to improve our coastline.

"Protecting the coast was once seen as largely the domain of governments, but it is now a task being shared by all those with an interest in these unique environments.

"This year's awards honour significant and lasting improvements made by community-based groups, often working on modest budgets.

"These successes will continue to inspire others to get involved."

Victorian Council Chair Libby Mears said the lifetime achievement award recognised Ms MacDonald's outstanding work in the eastern Otways.

"Margaret has been instrumental in leading and inspiring volunteers to get involved in a range of activities including removal of environmental weeds, and the monitoring of threatened species such as the Rufous Bristlebird," Ms Mears said.

"Margaret is testament to the notion that an individual can actually make a difference through hard work and perseverance."

"Coastal communities are essential partners with the Victorian Coastal Council and Coast Action/Coastcare in the managing the state's coastline.

"The volunteering role has broadened enormously, and now ranges from the more traditional tree-planting and surf life-saving activities, right through to participation on Committees of Management with significant responsibilities."

The Coastal Awards for Excellence are in their ninth year and are a joint initiative of the Victorian Coastal Council and Coast Action/Coastcare.

Attachment: Winners - Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2008

Winners - Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2008

Category	Nominee	Description	Town
Innovation	The People and Parks Foundation – Sea Search <i>(Winner)</i>	Sea Search is a community-based science monitoring program for Victoria's Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries.	Statewide program - based in Melbourne
Coastal Conservation and Protection by a Community Group	North Shore Residents Group <i>(Winner)</i>	The North Shore Residents Group has made significant environmental improvements to a coastline surrounded by heavy industrial activity in Geelong.	North Shore, near Geelong
Species Protection	The Connies <i>(Winner)</i>	The Connies have contributed greatly to the improved protection of many Victorian coastal and marine species through their educational activities and collectable cards.	Statewide program – based in Northcote
Coastal Conservation and Management by an Appointed Manager	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management <i>(Winner)</i>	Over the past seven years the Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management has worked to increase the sustainability of the land under its management through carrying out extensive revegetation programs to restore biodiversity to a severely degraded coastal reserve.	Corinella
Building and Design	Lorne Pier Reconstruction Team – DSE Public Assets, Great Ocean Road Coast Committee, Maunsell, EDAW, and McConnell Dowell. <i>(Winner)</i>	The reconstruction of the iconic Lorne Pier has restored a landmark on the Victorian coast. Once again locals and visitors can engage in fishing, promenading and the enjoyment of the annual Pier to Pub swimming race.	Site in Lorne, winners based in the Surf Coast Shire or in Melbourne
	Paul Morgan Architects – The Cape Schanck House <i>(Winner)</i>	This small residence is a great example of how to sensitively develop a coastal site and incorporate ecological sustainability principles. The building's design elements have been inspired by the surrounding coastal landscape and vegetation.	Site on Mornington Peninsula, based in Melbourne
Education	Narrawong District Primary School <i>(Winner)</i>	Narrawong District Primary School is a small school in the state's south-west which has shown outstanding dedication to environmental and cultural education in a coastal community.	Narrawong
Cultural Achievement	Tarerer Gundij Project Association – <i>Tarerer Festival</i> <i>(Winner)</i>	Tarerer is an annual cultural festival in the state's south-west which celebrates the ancient local indigenous links with coastal lands, while working towards reconciliation and mutual understanding.	Port Fairy
Coastal Planning	East Gippsland Shire Council – Restructure of Tambo Bluff Estate <i>(Winner)</i>	This planning project for Tambo Bluff has demonstrated a process for determining the strategic future of an old and inappropriate subdivision and a methodology for providing service infrastructure to support the preferred development outcome.	Bairnsdale
	City of Port Phillip – Planning for Climate Change: a Case Study <i>(Commendation)</i>	Production of a strategic planning document to guide coastal planning decisions within the context of climate change.	St Kilda

Media	<i>Australian Geographic</i> Best of Australia – The Great Ocean Road (Winner)	<i>Australian Geographic's</i> 'The Great Ocean Road' edition contained a documentary DVD featuring original footage of the spectacular Great Ocean Road area and the fascinating animals and people within its surrounds.	Great Ocean Road – organisation based in Sydney
Outstanding Individual Achievement	Alf Willder (Winner)	Alf's posthumous nomination is in recognition of his extensive and consistent efforts in the care and management of Crown land reserves in the Port Franklin township. These areas have since seen an increase in their environmental values and sense of ownership by the local community.	Port Franklin
	Anthony Boxshall (Winner)	Anthony has made an outstanding contribution to increasing the knowledge base of Victoria's marine national parks and sanctuaries, as well as communicating the values of Victoria's unique marine life.	Melbourne
Lifetime Achievement	Margaret MacDonald (Winner)	Margaret MacDonald has been an active member of a number of community groups in the south west for over 15 years. She has contributed tirelessly to the improvement, protection and enhancement of its fauna and flora during this time.	Moggs Creek