

BCNT NEWS



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Significant Trees & Vegetation Register

BCNT's joint pilot project with Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS), to compile a Significant Tree Register for Phillip Island and Churchill Island, was launched with a public forum on Sun Oct 20th. 75 people attended including the BCSC Mayor Brett Tessari and Councillors Pamela Rothfield, Stephen Fullarton and Geoff Ellis.

Guest speaker Dr Greg Moore OAM, Chair of the National Trust of Victoria's Significant Tree Register inspired us with his passion for trees as he spoke of the huge benefits they provide. For instance:

- Trees improve our physical and mental health and have economic importance too. Their shade will reduce power bills and prolong the life of bitumen. They are significant users of carbon dioxide and their large structures store tonnes of carbon.
- Tragically, the Black Saturday fires caused 173 deaths but the extreme temperatures then & on the preceding days caused a further 374 deaths, mostly in treeless areas. Dr Moore asked when it becomes negligence to know this and yet do nothing to address the need for vegetation cover.



The meeting concluded with group discussions to refine the nomination form and process. Local experts attended the forum and several have volunteered to be on the selection panel.

The Nomination process is commencing and we can all be involved in choosing the trees which we feel have significance on Phillip and Churchill Islands. Verification of the owners' permission is required for trees on private properties.

- **Nomination forms will be available to download on the PICS website soon**
- **Anyone can nominate a Phillip Island or Churchill Island tree which they feel is significant.**
- **The criteria listed on the form is based on that used by the National Trust register.**
- **Nominations will be received until Monday 25 November.**

Once you have submitted your nomination, a well qualified panel including an arborist and environmental/architectural/heritage/landscape experts will carefully review it.

St Paul's Boys Home Newhaven News

In July BCNT wrote a letter to Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) expressing our concern at the continuing vandalism and deterioration at the former St Paul's Boys Home.

Chief Executive Officer, Ms Ali Wastie has now replied and she advises:- *"The Heritage Overlay as it exists in the Victorian Planning Provisions is considered reactive in nature and cannot compel a site owner to maintain the site any further than is required under building and local law regulations. Listing a place on the Victorian Heritage Register at the state level allows Heritage Victoria to issue repair orders, but this is not available for places affected only by the Heritage Overlay. Listing the place on the Heritage Register would also open the site to funding opportunities.*

Ms Wastie went on to say: *"As part of its Heritage Gaps Project, Council is currently in the process of reviewing its heritage planning program, and the former Boys Home will form part of this review. The Heritage Gaps Project will take the form of an audit of heritage sites and from this we will be able to prioritise Council's Heritage Project going forward. This Gaps Project will be completed this financial year."*

BCSC anticipates that the recommendations from the Gaps project will be completed as a rolling program over coming years, subject to future budget allocations. While Ms Wastie's advice contains no immediate joy for the Boy's Home, it is positive that it is on BCSC's agenda and watchlist. The Gaps project follows a request we made to BCSC in 2018. In the meantime, staff from the National Trust of Victoria are assisting us with a study into the social history of the Boys Home. BCNT committee member, Gaye Cleeland has also contributed valuable research findings. The purpose of this work is to provide grounds for a State Heritage listing of the site



Top photos show the buildings in the 1920s. The bottom two show the interiors of the Chapel & the Dining Room.

Photos: The Phillip Island and District Historical Society Inc

Coming Up!

BCNT Committee Meeting: Our final meeting for the year will be held at Ventnor on Sunday 24 November. We'll be welcoming John Laing who was elected to the committee at the AGM in September. All 2019 Office Bearers and committee members were reelected.

2019/2020 BCNT Committee

President: Greg Buchanan

Vice President: Margaret Hancock

Secretary: MaryLu Burt

Treasurer: Eric Burt

Committee Members:

Julie Box | Gaye Cleeland | John Jansson | John Laing | Ross Lloyd

NT Branches Forum:

Representatives from all the regional branches will gather for a forum in Melbourne on December 6. This is the second Branches Forum for the year and a chance to look back on 2019's heritage activity across Victoria. We enjoy catching up on news and it's always a time to be inspired and share ideas. You can find news about the regional branches by following this link:

[NT Regional Branches](#)

Heritage Council of Victoria

BCNT will be represented at a workshop on Nov 1 as part of The State of Heritage Review. Click on the link below to find out more about the review:

[State of Heritage Review](#)

Distinctive Areas and Landscapes

BCNT received this good news from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) last week:

"We are pleased to announce that the Bass Coast has now been declared a 'Distinctive Area and Landscape' under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Declaring the Bass Coast is a major step in setting out a long-term vision and strategy of the region.

The project is being led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in collaboration with the Bass Coast Sire Council and the Bunurong People.

Work will now commence on a draft Statement of Planning Policy for the Bass Coast which will set a long-term vision and strategies to guide future land use and development. A second phase of public engagement is being planned for early next year which will provide an opportunity to have input on the policy directions of the Statement of Planning Policy.

Further engagement will also occur next year on the draft Statement of Planning Policy, which will include a public submissions process.

Once implemented, the Statement of Planning Policy will provide the highest level of state planning protection. This protection will ensure that the significant landscapes, environmental, economic and cultural values of declared areas will be protected and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first phase of engagement from July to August 2019. Understanding the views of the community has been an important input to the declaration and will inform the Statement of Planning Policy.

25/10/19, 6:07 pm "

BCNT will look forward to seeing the draft Statement of Planning Policy and will take part in the public engagement process.

