



Island Orchard Co-op



WESTERNPORT
WATER.








Phillip Island Community Orchard

Member pack & terms of reference





Table of Contents

- Table of Contents.....1**
- Vision2**
- What you need to know2**
 - About the Phillip Island Community Orchard..... 2*
 - About us 2*
 - Getting involved..... 2*
 - Access and gardening hours 3*
 - Funding 3*
- Safe gardening guidelines4**
 -  *Health and safety Induction 4*
 -  *CARE WITH CREATURES..... 4*
 -  *LIFTING 5*
 -  *STORAGE..... 5*
 -  *CONSTRUCTION..... 5*
 -  *CARE WITH ORGANIC CHEMICALS..... 5*
- Recycled Water6**
 -  *What is Recycled Water?..... 6*
 -  *Quality of Recycled Water..... 7*
 - USING RECYCLED WATER..... 7*
- On-Site Do’s and Don’ts for Recycled Water Use8**
- Your responsibilities9**
- PICO Member Registration Form.....10**



Vision

The Phillip Island Community Orchard (PICO) will share, inspire, educate, engage and re-skill the local community and its visitors to grow local, organic, heirloom and less common fruit and vegetables that can be harvested all year round to increase local food production.

- ✓ Build a liveable, healthy community through strong local partnerships promoting sustainable principles.
- ✓ Demonstrate the benefits of recycled water, safely employed for the production of food resources.
- ✓ Promote healthy living through active involvement in gardening
- ✓ Provide information on eating nutritious fruit and vegetables, and employ and promote sustainable practices.

What you need to know

ABOUT THE PHILLIP ISLAND COMMUNITY ORCHARD

PICO is a community-run project that aims to share, inspire, educate and engage the local community. Located in Wimbledon Heights, the vacant one hectare parcel of land will be transformed into an attractive and sustainable orchard and garden.

ABOUT US

The concept and idea of a larger scale community orchard was first introduced to Westernport Water (WPW) by a small group of dedicated community gardeners known as the Island Orchard Co-op (IOC). In addition, other organisations and community groups have expressed their support and in particular Bass Coast Landcare Network and Phillip Island Landcare Group who are planning to setup a native and indigenous plant and bush tucker demonstration site. Bass Coast Shire Council is on board through Transition Phillip Island and their community garden network and the Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) are also supporting the project.

The project is effectively a joint community project; however, the day-to-day operations of the orchard/garden will be run entirely by community volunteers and managed by the PICO committee.

Westernport Water will provide specialist advice and support services for recycled water, public relations and health and safety.

GETTING INVOLVED

Everyone is welcome to join us as we build the Phillip Island Community Orchard (PICO). There are many ways you can get involved and as the project gains



momentum there will be many opportunities for learning about permaculture and sustainable gardening through workshops, working bees and community gardening days.

How to join?

To become a member you must complete the required PICO membership form, attend an induction session, and agree to a minimum commitment to this community project. Currently there is only a token cost of \$10 associated with membership but the group would appreciate any donations towards the community project that will go directly towards the garden.

The PICO membership application form can be found on the Orchard & Garden webpage on Westernport Water's website at

www.westernportwater.com.au/OurCommunity/Communitywork/OrchardGarden or at

www.islandorchard.wordpress.com/

Community members who are interested in staying up to date with the project can become Friends of PICO at no charge. Just email us your contact details and you will receive updates and invites to community events at the orchard and garden.

KEY CONTACTS, WHO'S WHO

Prospective gardeners and enquiries about the community orchard should be directed through WPW's Communications and Public Relations Manager Geoff Russell on 59564140 or email: grussell@westernportwater.com.au

If you would like to contact the PICO committee for more information, please email: islandcommunityorchard@gmail.com

ACCESS AND GARDENING HOURS

The site must be kept secure at all times when there are no personnel present. Access will be via a padlock with a register of keys maintained by the PICO committee for access to the site.

The site must only be accessed during daylight hours. During daylight saving times no noisy activities are allowed to be undertaken after 6pm of an evening.

FUNDING

WPW is providing the land under an agreement with the IOC. WPW shall waive the usage fees for drinking water and recycled water provided recycled usage is consistent in principle with the expected use noted in the Customer Site Management Plan (CSMP).

WPW shall waive the associated annual access fees for drinking water and recycled water connections.



Safe gardening guidelines



HEALTH AND SAFETY INDUCTION

Each member of PICO must complete basic induction which includes a health and safety component before partaking in any gardening activities, please allow approximately 20 minutes. The Orchard must at all times be maintained to ensure the safety of members and visitors. PICO has adopted its own common sense approach to gardening. **Keep it simple!**



TOOL USE

1. If you are taking more than one tool into the garden, carry them from storage into the garden in a wheelbarrow, bucket or a basket so there is a place to put them when they are not in use and at the end of the gardening session.
2. Before using a spade, garden fork, rake or other long handled tool, look to make sure there is nobody behind or beside you.
3. When you have finished using a garden tool or you put a tool aside for a moment, place it out of the way of people.
4. Never lay a tool across a path or place it in long grass where it is hidden and where people could trip over it.
5. Lean a garden rake or long handled tool against something when you put it aside. If you have to lay it down, place it away from where people might walk. Place it with the pointed tangs or blade on the ground, not pointing up.
6. When putting a garden spade, shovel or fork aside, push it into the soil so that it remains upright and visible.
7. Carry tools such as spades, garden forks and rakes in your hand rather than over the shoulder. Carried on the shoulder, it is easy to hit someone accidentally if you turn around and they are close by.



AVOID SUN BURN AND DEHYDRATION

1. Wear a hat to avoid sunburn.
2. If you sunburn easily, consider wearing a lightweight shirt with long sleeves as well as long trousers.
3. Use a sunscreen cream to avoid sunburn.
4. If in the garden for some time, remember to drink water to avoid dehydration.



CARE WITH CREATURES

1. Do not try to pick up bugs, spiders and other creatures you come across. They might defend themselves by biting, stinging or scratching.
2. Look before lifting buckets, watering cans, boxes and other things. Redback spiders sometimes nest in them and a bite from them can be dangerous.



LIFTING

When lifting something heavy, bend your knees and crouch down, then lift it by straightening your legs. To avoid back injury, do not bend over to pick up something that is heavy. Seek help to lift and move heavy or bulky materials or objects.

STORAGE

1. Designate an area of the garden for storing materials.
2. Store materials so that they are unlikely to fall over or spill.
3. Place heavier materials close to the ground and lighter materials on top of these.
4. Stack and store materials neatly so that they are easily accessible and out of the way of paths and places where people walk.
5. Avoid storing materials that the gardeners have no plans to use. This avoids community gardens becoming eyesores.

CONSTRUCTION

1. All design and construction must be approved by the PICO committee before any work is commenced.
2. Keep paths clear and level.
3. If digging a hole, make your work visible to gardeners passing by so they do not trip in it. Mark the excavation with coloured tape or a barrier if you are leaving it for a while.

CARE WITH ORGANIC CHEMICALS

1. Some organic pesticides can cause injury. When making, handling and applying chilli-based insecticides such as chilli spray, wear gloves and keep hands away from your face (chilli in the eyes is painful).
2. Avoid getting botanic sprays and other controls in your eyes or in cuts on your hands or legs. It is best to wear gloves when applying any botanic or synthetic control.
3. Wash your hands after making, handling or applying organic pesticides, herbicides or other organic controls

OTHER PROTECTIVE PRECAUTIONS

1. If you suffer breathing difficulties or asthma, consider wearing a dust mask when making or turning compost or spreading mulch.
2. Consider wearing gardening gloves to protect your hands and to avoid blisters from handling garden tools, and when doing garden construction, spreading compost and mulch and when removing pest insects from plants manually.
3. Wear enclosed shoes to protect your feet. Do not garden in flip flops or sandals.



Recycled Water



What is Recycled Water?

Recycled Water is produced by treating wastewater (derived from sewerage/wastewater) at dedicated treatment facilities in order to remove harmful and unwanted nutrients, pathogens and bacteria.

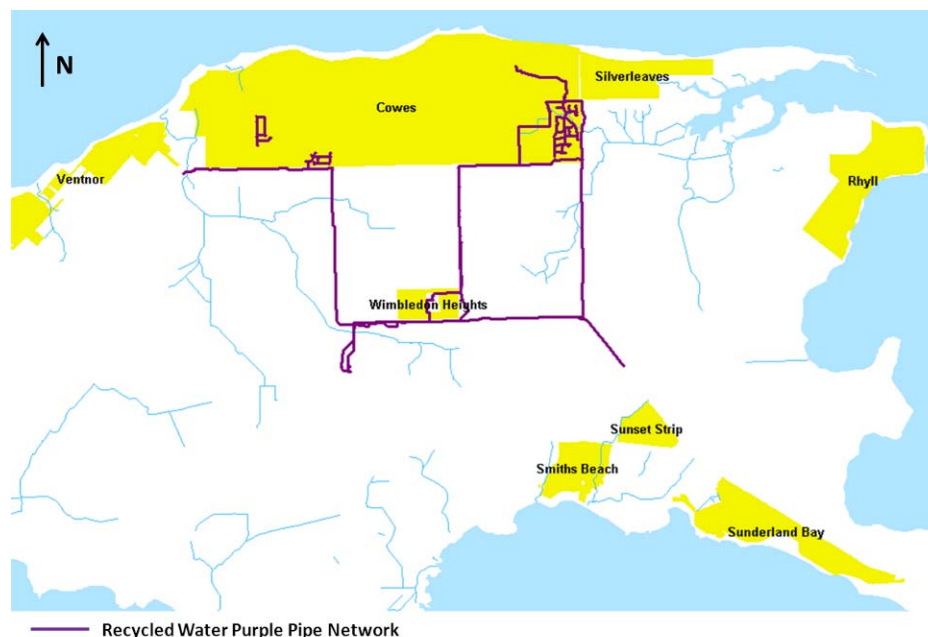
A new Class A Recycled Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) has been constructed at the existing Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant (CWWTP) and delivers Class A recycled water to customers across Phillip Island.

You will notice a 2 megalitre (2 million litre) buffer storage tank located adjacent to the orchard/garden site at Wimbledon Heights, this tank provides a buffer for the system and stores the recycled water where it is gravity fed to commercial customers along the purple pipeline which includes residential estates in the Cowes and Ventnor areas (refer to the map on the next page).

Providing safe, fit-for-purpose water supplies is essential, and where appropriate, the substitution of drinking water with Class A recycled water will alleviate pressure on the local drinking water supplies. Furthermore, use of recycled water will reduce the volume of treated wastewater that would otherwise be discharged to the ocean.

This community garden demonstrates how we can work together to manage our water resources for a more liveable and productive Island.

Map of the Phillip Island Recycled Water Network





Quality of Recycled Water

The treated water produced by the Cowes RWTP is classified as Class A quality- this is the highest quality of recycled water, meaning that pathogens are removed in the treatment process and heavy metal concentrations are very low and meet Australian guidelines for irrigation purposes.

However, nutrient and salinity contents in the recycled water differ to those of drinking water with total Nitrogen concentrations of generally 20 - 30 mg/L and Total Phosphorus 5 -10 mg/L. The salinity (total dissolved solids- TDS) of the recycled water is typically 800 mg/L.

The higher nutrient content makes recycled water ideal for gardens reducing the need for fertilisers. However, care will need to be taken for direct irrigation applications where higher salinity can cause issues with some leafy vegetables.

The PICO is aware of the benefits of recycled water and will utilise drip irrigation system watering methods focussed on the plant roots avoiding contact with leaves so limiting any potential foliar damage to plants from elevated salinity. The soils will also be tested on an annual basis to ensure that there is no build-up of salts and nutrients.

USING RECYCLED WATER

Class A Recycled water **IS** suitable for the following purposes:



Irrigation of public open spaces, such as parks and sports fields, where public access is unrestricted



Toilet flushing



General outdoor uses such as dust suppression and wash down



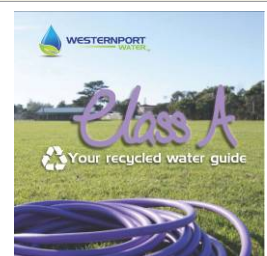
Filling water features and ponds that are not used for swimming



Fire fighting and fire protection systems, including hydrants and sprinkler systems

Class A recycled water is **NOT** considered acceptable for the following uses:

Drinking, filling swimming pools and spas, bathing and showering, children's water toys and cooking or other kitchen purposes.





On-Site Do's and Don'ts for Recycled Water Use

Do

- ✓ Be aware of all hazards and risks associated with the use of recycled water
- ✓ Ensure everyone else is aware of the safe use of recycled water
- ✓ Use only approved purple recycled water hoses, fittings and trigger nozzles
- ✓ Use only approved recycled water materials for repairs or alterations
- ✓ Ensure tap handles are removed after use from recycled water tap outlets
- ✓ Contact a Committee Member of PICO and Westernport Water (1800 249 090) in the event of: a recycled water spill, or any other recycled water emergency

Don't

- X Don't drink recycled water
- X Don't use recycled water to wash hands or any other part of the body
- X Don't use equipment (including tankers) that has been in contact with recycled water for any potable (drinking) water use
- X Don't cross-connect the recycled water supply with the potable supply or use recycled water for any domestic (potable) purpose
- X Don't allow recycled water to run-off site
- X Don't irrigate/ turn on the drip system immediately before or after heavy rainfall



Your responsibilities

1. I agree not to interfere with the rights and opportunities of others.
2. The only conflict initiated by me will be with the weeds and pests which I will attack with physical means (or via organic chemicals).
3. If a dispute does arise, I pledge to settle it through calm discussion and goodwill according to the PICO procedures. If the issue remains unresolved, I will accept the decision of the PICO committee.
4. I understand my participation at PICO is at my own risk. Westernport Water and members of IOC are not liable for any injury to me, or for the loss of any of my possessions.
5. When I use tools, I will always be aware of the safety of myself and others and will adhere to safe practices as detailed in the induction program.
6. I have read the information provided in this pack, and have been provided with a recycled water handbook.
7. I understand the precautions that need to be taken when gardening with recycled water, and will always be aware of the safety of myself and others.
8. I appreciate the need for security of the garden and will lock the gate each time I exit through it.
9. I will contribute to working bees and general site maintenance and I happily agree to share what I can with the PICO community. (Commitment levels TBC after consultation with members).
10. I have read, appreciate and will abide by the spirit of the PICO terms of reference, with the best intentions for the greater good.

Signed:

Dated: Insert date here

Name: Insert name here



PICO Member Registration Form

All information will be kept confidential. Please complete as many fields as possible, and send to PICO Committee, 66 Tampa Rd Cape Woolamai, VIC 3925, or email: islandcommunityorchard@gmail.com

Applicant details

Name:	Name	
Address:	Address	
Email:	Email	
Phone:	Phone	
Emergency contact	(Name & Relationship)	(Number)
Your Health	(Please list any pre-existing injuries)	

What activities would you like to be involved with? (simply place an X in the shaded area)

Nursery activities	Compost/ worm farm	Mail outs
Arts projects	Administration/ office work	Organising events
Assisting with school groups	Writing articles for newsletter	Garden tours
Stalls / displays at events	General gardening	Facilitating workshops

What experience do you bring to the group?

Type here
Type here

What do you want to gain from volunteering at the community orchard?

Type here
Type here

How often would you like to participate? (simply place an X in the shaded area)

Once or more a week	Once a fortnight
Once a month	Special projects/ events



Member agreement - (simply place an X in the shaded area)

All members are required to complete the site induction and this member registration form before you can access the site and participate in any activities associated with the community orchard.

As a member I agree to adhere to the community orchard safety guidelines and terms of reference outlined in this induction pack.

I understand my responsibilities as a member of PICO.

Membership per annum \$10 payable at induction.

Name:	Name	
Signed:	Electronic signature or initials	Date: Insert date here

Privacy Statement

PICO and Westernport Water is collecting the information requested on this form for the purposes of recording community orchard volunteer details. This information will be handled in accordance with the Information and Privacy Act 2000. For a copy of Westernport Water’s privacy charter which describes in more detail how personal information may be used, or how to access your personal information, please visit www.westernportwater.com.au/privacy or contact 1300 720 711.

Office Use Only

	Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	Signed
Registration received on:		
Registration details saved in TRIM:		
Member inducted on site:		
Member added to email contact list:		





NOTICE TO STAFF & VISITORS

WORKING WITH RECYCLED WATER

The water that is used for irrigation on this property is recycled water. It has been treated to a high standard; however precautions must be taken with its use.

The recycled water must only be used for irrigation on appropriate areas.

- Do not drink recycled water
- Do not wash your hands with recycled water
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while working with recycled water
- Wash your hands thoroughly in clean potable (drinking water) from a potable supply tap before you eat, drink, smoke (all) or leave work each day (staff)

What you should do if:

You cut yourself

- Wash the cut with soap and clean potable water (not recycled water) and apply a clean (preferably waterproof) bandage to stop the bleeding
- Ask the site supervisor whether you need to see a doctor
- If you are concerned because the cut becomes sore, or for any other reason, see a doctor

You get spray on your face

- Avoid breathing and ingesting spray
- Wash your face and eyes with clean potable water (not recycled water)

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY,
CONTACT WESTERNPORT WATER ON
1800 249 090**