

Sustainability achievements on Phillip Island - a brief history



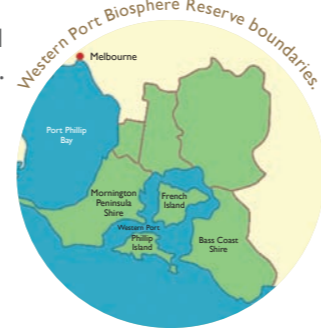
Volunteers at Burkes Environmental Blitz - Ventnor Common 2002

- 1968** The Phillip Island Conservation Society formed.
- 1987** Phillip Island Landcare Group established.
- 1996** Phillip Island Nature Parks formed.
- 1997** Phillip Island Wildlife Corridor launched.
- 1998** The Barb Martin Bush Bank established.
- 2000** Bass Coast Alliance formed and first World Environment Day Schools Expo held.
- 2002** Burke's Backyard environmental blitz at Ventnor Common.
The Western Port Biosphere Reserve was declared by UNESCO.
'Common Weeds of Gippsland' brochure released by Bass Coast Shire Council.
- 2003** Urban Landcare established on Phillip Island.
Annual awards began for best urban garden.
- 2005** 'Weeds out – Indigenous In' program begins.
The first local business sustainability recognition program.
'Indigenous plants of Phillip Island' brochure released by Phillip Island Landcare Group.
- 2007** First 'Sustainable Living' brochure released by Landcare and Bass Coast Shire council.
Westernport Water rebates introduced.
Westernport Water showerhead and trigger exchange program introduced.
Household water audits began. 100 audited.

- 2008** First 'Sustainable Living Festival' held.
Sustaining Coastal Communities Project started.
- 2009** Urban Rabbit control initiative introduced.
Gorse eradication program started.
Removal of 200 pine trees from Newhaven swamp.
- 2010** 5.7 million committed to the development of the Phillip Island Recycled Water Scheme.
- 2011** Phillip Island Nature Parks begin work on a waste strategy for the whole park.
Over the last 25 years around 800,000 indigenous plants have been planted.
Over 100 sustainability events run in the last 25 years.
Over 90% of Phillip Island has undergone pest, plant or animal control in last 25 years.
Class A water dual purple pipe installed in all new developments.
Over 25 million litres of drinking water now saved annually.
- 2015** Westernport Water's short term goal is to re-use 23% of the wastewater on Phillip Island.

What makes Phillip Island special?

- Phillip Island boasts a high diversity of coastal habitats including rocky coastline, sandy beaches and mangrove communities.
- Approximately 8000 people reside and 3.5 million people visit Phillip Island annually.
- Agriculture and tourism are the island's main economies.
- Phillip Island is part of the Western Port biosphere reserve recognised internationally by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). Biosphere reserves aim to foster conservation and sustainable development.
- There have been over 260 bird species recorded on the Island.
- Phillip Island is home to one of the largest Little Penguin colonies in the world and Seal Rocks is home to one of the largest Australian Fur Seals colonies in the world.



Phillip Island is a special place. It provides habitat for plants, animals, residents and is a destination for millions of visitors.

The Island is recognised internationally for its research and significant wetlands. A sustainable Phillip Island will help protect its special resources and you can make a difference.



Anne Davie local farmer re-vegetating the Phillip Island Wildlife Corridor.

Websites for sustainable living

- Make your home green: www.makeyourhomegreen.vic.gov.au
- Save water: www.savewater.com.au
- Sustainable Gardening Australia: www.sgaonline.org.au
- National Recycling Hotline: www.recyclingnearyou.com.au
- Bass Coast buy local: www.basscoastbuylocal.com
- Appliance energy ratings: www.energyrating.gov.au
- Chemicals in the home: www.safersolutions.org.au
- Sustainability Victoria: www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au
- Department of Sustainability: www.environment.gov.au
- Clean energy future: www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au

- Through good management and the assistance of the community the Hooded Plover population on Phillip Island is one of few in the world that is increasing in size.



Sustainable Phillip Island

Key Partners

Phillip Island is blessed with groups whose passion is to ensure a sustainable future for the area. If you wish to live more sustainably these groups can support you in making a change. Why not make the call and ensure Phillip Island remains a special place for you and others now and into the future.

Phillip Island Landcare Group
5951 3329
www.basscoastlandcare.org.au

Westernport Water
1300 720 711
www.westernportwater.com.au

Transition Towns
www.transitionphillipisland.wordpress.com/transition-what/

Phillip Island Nature Parks
www.penguins.org.au

South Eastern Councils Climate Change Alliance
www.seccca.org.au

Bass Coast Shire Council
1300 226 278
www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

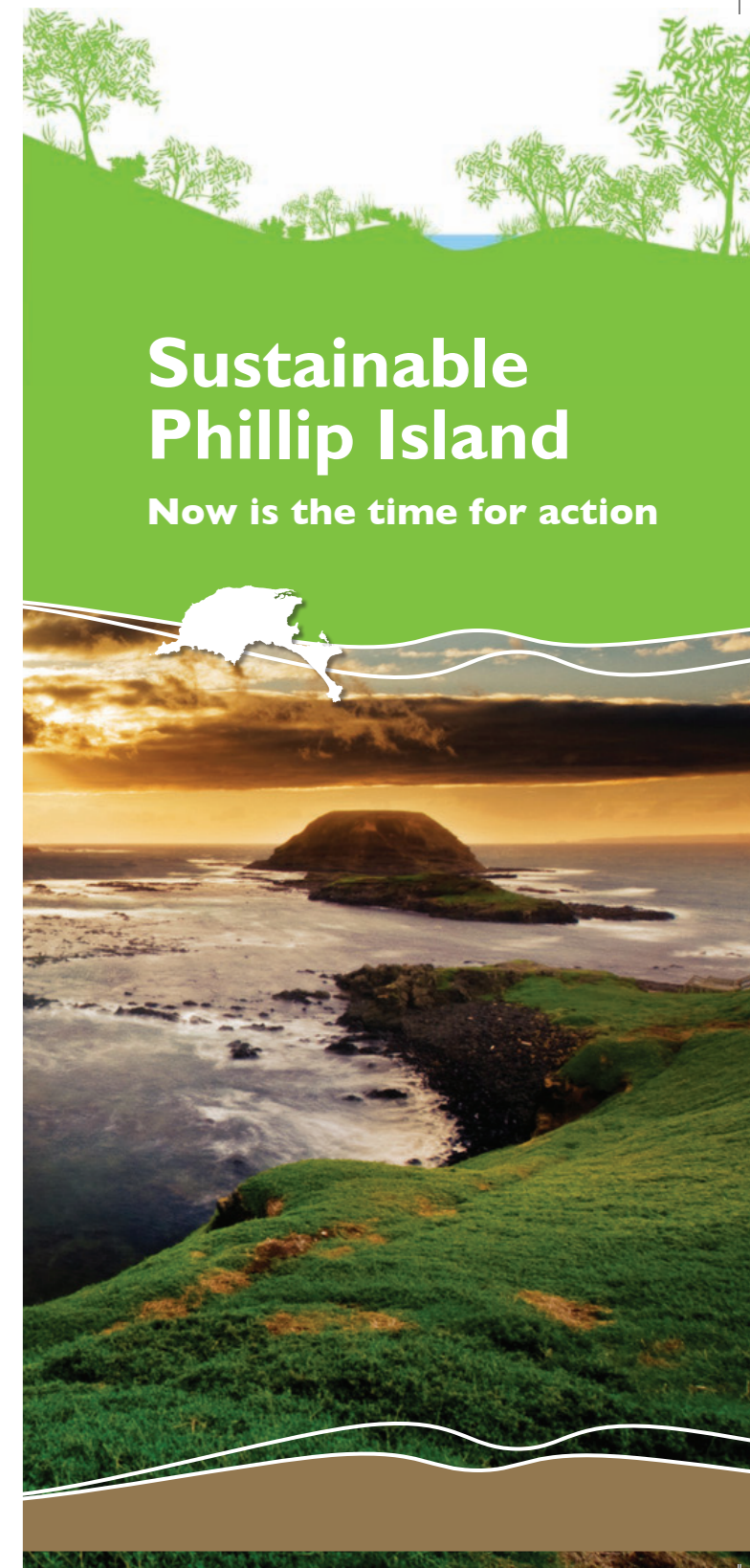
Western Port Biosphere Reserve
www.biosphere.org.au



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The Sustaining Coastal Communities Project is managed by the Phillip Island Landcare Group, funded through the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund and supported by local sources including Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council, South East Councils Climate Change Alliance and the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation.

Sustainable Phillip Island

Now is the time for action



Phillip Island is a special place to live and visit

Phillip Island is a place worth caring for through sustainable living. If you are a resident or visitor of Phillip Island, appreciate that it's special now and wish it remains so for generations to come, then the information in this brochure is for you.

Being an island of only 10,000 hectares (26km x 9km) all inhabitants - human, plant and animal must share limited resources. As humans it's up to us to live sustainably to give all the inhabitants of the Island a fair go.

In August 2011 a passionate group of community and business representatives met to outline the following vision and objectives for a sustainable Phillip Island.

Sustainable Phillip Island Vision:

Residents and visitors of Phillip Island living sustainably to achieve balanced environmental, social and economic outcomes for the future.

As islanders we recognise the powerful impact we have on our home and strive to achieve the following objectives:

- Be aware of our ecological footprint and decrease our consumption by following the 4 R's: **Refuse, Reduce, Re use and Recycle**
- Protect, restore and further enhance indigenous flora and fauna on Phillip Island.
- Respect our treasured natural, agricultural and cultural landscapes.
- Support local and sustainable products, and use them whenever we can.
- Contribute to a sustainable Island by being active, engaged, responsible and inclusive community members.



Participants at a Landcare 'Practical Sustainability Seminar' day.

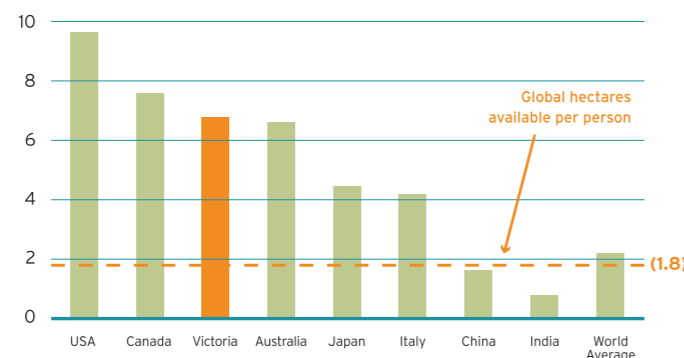
What is Sustainable Living?

A lifestyle that meets our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

What is an Ecological Footprint?

"The Ecological Footprint measures how much nature we have, how much we use, and who uses it. It shows us how much biologically productive land and water a population (an individual, an organisation, a city, a country, or all of humanity) requires to support current levels of consumption and waste production, using prevailing technology".

Ecological Footprint of Nations



SOURCE: EPA VICTORIA'S WEBSITE

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has developed calculators so you can measure your footprint.

Go to:

www.epa.vic.gov.au/ecologicalfootprint/about/default.asp

Sustainable Phillip Island

Your challenge and a call to action

As a resident or visitor you can choose sustainable living. This choice will help our island achieve its sustainable vision and objectives.

An island such as ours has obvious boundaries making it easier to measure the difference all of us can make if we choose to live more sustainably.

Do you:

- Know where your water comes from?
- Know where your waste goes?

Could you:

- Buy less stuff?
- Use things more than once?
- Use less water and energy?



Revegetation project to improve salinity problem on a Phillip Island farm.



Sustainable Phillip Island representatives.



Reduce your ecological footprint by growing your own food.

This brochure is a call to action for you to make the change. You can do it in so many ways:

- Undertake a sustainable self assessment of your home.
- Invest in energy and water efficient products in your home.
- Investigate installation of solar hot water, solar panels and water tanks.
- Plant an indigenous garden. You can purchase locally indigenous plants from the Barb Martin Bushbank. (they're water wise plants!)
- Help clean up your beaches when on a walk – take a plastic bag for rubbish and dog poo.
- Keep pets under control in public places, and confined to your house or yard at night.
- Make contact with one of the groups listed on the back page, even better become an active member.
- Attend a local education program and join a discussion group.

To assist you in making the change check out the list of useful websites in this brochure or visit the Council office and pick up one of the following brochures.

- Indigenous Plants of Bass Coast Shire
- Sustainable living guide
- Renters guide



Household sustainability achievements on Phillip Island

Sustaining Coastal Communities Project

The residents of Phillip Island have moved towards living sustainably. The Sustaining Coastal Communities project provides great examples of people making sustainable changes in their homes.

Sustaining Coastal Communities - Connecting the street to the land

This island wide sustainability project involved over 60 homes and 20 businesses between 2009-2011, providing audits, workshops and events for participants and the general public. Participants aimed to reduce energy use by 15%, water use by 30% and waste produced by 50% with many reaching and exceeding these figures.



Writing down action plans for small to large goals assisted participants in working towards implementing changes that made a difference.

Some of the best individual achievements in the project included:

- 64% reduction in waste by smart shopping, reusing and recycling.
- 46% reduction in energy use by first reducing household use and then installation of a solar power system.
- 100% reduction in mains water by installing tanks.



Participant comments:

"Being involved has helped me connect with my community and given me the confidence to encourage friends and guests to be more environmentally friendly by showing them how I run my house."

"Finding out and sharing information with others on what really works to cut down power or water use has been a great experience for me"

"Some people perceive it as hard to make changes but it is the little things that add up to make a difference"

Projects such as this provide people with the motivation to make changes, reduce resource use and make a positive difference to our environment.

