

PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARKS

www.penguins.org.au

- Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) is a natural wildlife attraction covering approximately 20% of Phillip Island near Western Port, Victoria
- PINP is part of the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve - the first semi-urban biosphere in the world
- PINP northern coast line is part of the Western Port Ramsar Site which supports thousands of migratory shorebirds and wetland species
- The PINP mission is "to conserve and enhance the Nature Park's environment for current and future generations while achieving a balanced environmental, economic and social outcome"
- Sustainability is a key theme that underpins the PINP Management Plan 2006-11. Key focus areas within this plan are fauna conservation, habitat enhancement, natural asset protection, infrastructure management, heritage preservation and community involvement.

Water Management

- Sixty-two of the highest water saving rate toilets (AAAA) have been installed across PINP attractions and combined with rain water harvesting and reuse has reduced overall water consumption by 10 million litres per annum or 15,000 litres a day
- PINP has installed water tanks at all major visitor centres and offices to collect rainwater for recycling.

Energy Management

- PINP has installed solar panels at the Nobbies Visitor Centre at Point Grant to assist with its power needs, with excess power put back into the grid. This is one of the largest solar arrays on a public building in Victoria.

Programs currently participating in

- PINP is committed to community partnerships to make Phillip Island a great place to live and work
- PINP has a holistic approach to sustainability and is supported by community groups such as Friends of Churchill Island, Friends of the Koalas, Coastal Action Groups, Victorian Boonerwung Elders Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- PINP has undertaken a five year \$800,000 program to eradicate foxes from the semi urban island. If successful this will be one of the largest semi urban islands to become fox free in the world
- PINP works with 21 local stakeholder groups to facilitate improvements to the natural environment and amenities for park users
- PINP volunteers and rangers conduct Hooded Plover Watch each year to protect the eggs and chicks of this vulnerable shore nesting species
- PINP runs a highly successful Short-tailed Shearwater Rescue Programme saving over 300 departing birds each year from being killed by cars on local roads.

Strategies Implemented

- For over 25 years PINP has had its own wildlife hospital to care for sick and injured native animals, particularly Little Penguins affected by oil spills
- PINP recognises the importance of Environmental Sustainability and has an expert environment team dedicated to protecting its natural assets. Annually over \$1.7m is spent on protecting natural values and providing educational opportunities

- PINP has partnered with Swinburne University 'National Centre for Sustainability' to implant sustainability practices, policies and procedures across the entire organisation. Sustainability action plans are developed for each department with the aim of reporting on action within the annual report.
- PINP's revegetation officer, assisted by international and local volunteers, planted 24,000 trees last season. Local coast action groups and friends groups and the Barbara Martin Bush Bank (Indigenous seed bank) were also involved.

Accolades Received

- PINP has the highest eco tourism accreditation, Advanced Eco Tourism Accreditation, through Eco Tourism Australia for 12 of its eco-experiences tours. This is the greatest number of tours with this rating for one organisation in Australia.

Other

- PINP cares for 1,805 hectares of land, 60 km of coastline and over 40 km of boardwalks and walking tracks
- PINP aims to protect 330 species of native plant species including twenty-two rare or threatened species
- PINP is home to 5% of the world's population of Short-tailed Shearwater and the world's largest colony of Australian Fur Seals
- PINP's Churchill Island is surrounded by one of 13 marine national parks in Victoria - the Churchill Island Marine National Park
- PINP is self funded with revenue generated from eco tourism
- PINP undertakes world leading research and regularly publishes in highly acclaimed journals
- PINP has educated 20,000 people about environmental, heritage and natural values over the past year. It also educated 28 trainees in land management
- PINP spend approximately \$1.2m annually on capital improvements including boardwalks, composting toilets and lookouts to protect habitat and provide leading eco tourism opportunities
- PINP and its volunteers support leading management and research for the protection of the threatened Hooded Plover in Victoria
- PINP received several government grants to assist with the rehabilitation of four of its wetlands over the next two years
- PINP wildlife hospital is a world leader in the rehabilitation of Little Penguins from oil spills
- World leading camera technology allows visitors to get close and personal with Australian Fur Seals on Seal Rocks without disturbing them.