



# WCB News

DECEMBER 2017

The Western Coastal Board (WCB) wishes our stakeholders a very merry festive season!

## Marine and Coastal Bill 2017

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio has introduced the *Marine and Coastal Bill 2017* into Parliament. Together with a range of complementary reforms and actions in the proposed Transition Plan, this Bill will deliver a simpler, more integrated and coordinated approach to how we plan and manage our unique and diverse marine and coastal environment. View the Bill at [legislation.vic.gov.au](http://legislation.vic.gov.au) and the proposed Transition Plan at [coastsandmarine.vic.gov.au/marine-and-coastal-act](http://coastsandmarine.vic.gov.au/marine-and-coastal-act).

For current vacancies on the proposed Marine and Coastal Council, search [vacancies.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://vacancies.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

## Guidelines for the preparation of Coastal Management Plans

Coastal Crown land managers now have access to a consistent framework for the preparation of Coastal Management Plans (CMPs) across Victoria – [Guidelines for the preparation of Coastal Management Plans 2017](#). An approved CMP has many benefits for both delegated land managers and the local community, not the least of which is demonstrating how the vision and outcomes of the *Western Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020* and the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014* are being achieved. Please contact your [local DELWP office](#) for more information.

## Belfast Coastal Reserve Coastal Management Plan

Parks Victoria has developed a draft Coastal Management Plan for the Belfast Coastal Reserve, in consultation with a wide range of community and stakeholder groups and individuals, including the WCB. The draft plan is expected to be released for public comment in December or January, via the [Parks Victoria](#) website.

## Audit on protecting Victoria's coastal assets

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) has been gathering information for an audit which is to determine whether natural and built assets on Victoria's coastline are being effectively protected against coastal erosion and inundation. The WCB Chair has now been interviewed as part of this process, and the Final Audit Report is expected to be tabled in Parliament in February 2018. Details: [VAGO website](#).

## Coastcare Victoria Community Grants Program

The Coastcare Community Grants 2018 are now open for application until 20 February 2018. \$250,000 will be distributed to Victorian community groups seeking to protect and enhance the coastal and near-shore marine environment, with up to \$10,000 available for one-year projects, and \$15,000 available for two-year projects. For guidelines and to apply:

[coastsandmarine.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/coastcare](http://coastsandmarine.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/coastcare).

## Summer by the Sea

More than 300 free activities are planned for the January 2018 Summer by the Sea program, proudly coordinated by Coastcare Victoria. This program gives Victorians, and visitors to our beautiful coast, the chance to learn about the coastal environment while having fun at the same time. Find and register for activities, including canoeing at Anglesea and rockpool rambles at Port Fairy, at [summerbythesea.vic.gov.au](http://summerbythesea.vic.gov.au).

## Victorian Coastal Awards - nominations open!

The 2018 awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of communities preserving and enhancing Victoria's marine and coastal environments. Nominations close 23 February 2018 – submit yours at [vcc.vic.gov.au/page/awards](http://vcc.vic.gov.au/page/awards).

## EstuaryWatch celebrates 10 years

EstuaryWatch has recently celebrated 10 years of citizen science monitoring on estuaries along the Victorian coastline with an event at Barwon Heads. The WCB congratulates the dedicated community volunteers monitoring estuary sites across the State. Read more at [estuarywatch.org.au/](http://estuarywatch.org.au/).

## Connecting Coastal Champions forum

The inaugural Connecting Coastal Champions forum was successfully hosted by the Central Coastal Board (CCB) in St Kilda on 23 November. Presentations, including an entertaining hypothetical set in 2027, are now available at [ccb.vic.gov.au](http://ccb.vic.gov.au).

### Connect with the WCB

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Next WCB meeting: 16 February 2018 in Portland.