

## Your donation will help to keep the special place you live in "special"

Our fundamental role is to achieve a **future for our region** that is **socially, economically and environmentally sustainable**. Your support will help to run programs that will:

- Conserve biological diversity, including the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot, and maintain healthy ecosystems in our region.
- Enhance community stewardship for our Biosphere.
- Generate knowledge on how to manage natural resources in a sustainable way.
- Improve collaboration to develop sustainable ways of living and doing business.
- Build markets for sustainable local products.
- Tap into the knowledge and experience of UNESCO to benefit our region.



### There are two ways to help:

#### 1. Biosphere Bandicoot Buddy annual supporter

Annual contribution \$99. I would like to make an additional donation of \$ .....

Total transaction: \$ 99 + \$ ..... = \$ .....

Cheque/money order enclosed

By credit card

#### or 2. Biosphere Bandicoot Buddy monthly supporter

Each month, I wish to contribute \$ .....(min. \$10) by credit card.

I would like to make an additional one-off donation of \$ ..... with my first monthly contribution

Total first transaction:

\$ ..... + \$ ..... = \$ .....

Biosphere Bandicoot Buddy monthly and annual supporter programs include an annual Biosphere Foundation membership fee of \$25. The balance of payments are treated as tax-deductible donations.

The Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Fund is a public fund listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1. of subsection 30-55(1) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act*. Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. ABN 15 107 484 408



MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERN PORT  
BIOSPHERE RESERVE FOUNDATION

Keeping our special place special



## YOUR BIOSPHERE NEEDS YOU



## TO HELP SAVE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

### Calling all Biosphere Bandicoot Buddies

The Southern Brown Bandicoot is a nationally endangered species. Until the 1970s, it was common in the heathy woodlands of the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve.

Today, the region's only secure population occurs at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. This population has limited genetic diversity, making it vulnerable to fire and disease. It is also becoming isolated from other remnant bandicoot populations by rapid urban development.

**We urgently need your help to continue our work.** You can support the Biosphere Foundation and its bandicoot recovery program by becoming a **Biosphere Bandicoot Buddy** (see back page for details).



Name: .....

Address: .....

City: ..... State: ..... Postcode: .....

Ph: ..... Mob: .....

Email: .....

I prefer to receive news via email

Credit card details: Visa / Mastercard

...../...../.....

Expiry date: ...../.....

Name on card: .....

Signature: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

**Return application to:** Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd, PO Box 261, Hastings Vic 3915 or fax (03) 5979 7563

**Enquiries:** (03) 5979 2167 or info@biosphere.org.au

[www.biosphere.org.au](http://www.biosphere.org.au)

## What is a biosphere reserve?

Put simply, a biosphere reserve is a living laboratory where people cooperate to develop better ways to manage the Earth's resources to meet human needs, while conserving natural processes and biodiversity.

In 2002, the Federal Government successfully nominated our Biosphere to UNESCO with the support of the State Government, five local governments and the community.

Our Biosphere aims to fulfil three functions:

**Conservation**—To contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.

**Sustainable development**—To foster economic and human development that is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable.

**Logistic support**—To support research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to conservation and development.

## What has the Biosphere Foundation achieved to date?

**Conservation: Southern Brown Bandicoot.** We have driven a recovery program for this endangered species within the Biosphere region. Efforts include habitat revegetation at The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve in Frankston, cooperation with landholders in the Koo Wee Rup and Bayles area to create biolinks, fox control, GIS mapping, monitoring and working with landholders to improve management practices.



**Sustainable development: Watson Creek.** We have pioneered an innovative program to enlist the community, landholders and business to improve the water quality of Watson Creek—one of Victoria's most polluted creeks. Watson Creek flows into Yaringa Marine National Park, part of the Western Port Ramsar site, near Somerville. This project has been adopted by Melbourne Water as a Better Bays and Waterways case study and is being used as a model solution for other catchments.

**Logistic support: International network.** We are a key participant in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. We represented our community recently at the Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Madrid and the International Conference of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves on Jeju Island, Special Self-governing Province, Republic of Korea. UNESCO funded our return to Jeju to present at a follow-up workshop on climate change in biosphere reserves.

**Logistic support: Visionary thinking.** We have established an advisory panel of eminent experts to explore bold, new approaches for a more sustainable future.

## How does our Biosphere work?

The Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd—the **Biosphere Foundation**—was established in 2003 to implement the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program in our Biosphere.

The Biosphere Foundation is an **independent, non-profit, community-based** organisation. Our board, led by independent chair Rob Gell, includes representatives from the broad community, Victorian Minister for the Environment, Parks Victoria, and five local governments.

Our research committee has strong links to scientific and educational institutions. Our executive officer, project officers and volunteers are based in Hastings.

The Biosphere Foundation receives some funding from the councils of Mornington Peninsula Shire, Frankston City and Cardinia Shire. We also receive project funding from a number of sources, including the Federal Government, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria.

## Why does our Biosphere need your help?

Our Biosphere has **many special values**:

- Western Port—A biologically diverse, Ramsar wetland of international importance, including three marine national parks.
- Western Port's wide variety of habitats supports abundant marine life, including fish nurseries, migratory shorebirds and other waterbirds.
- French Island—Relatively undisturbed, fox-free habitat, including a national park.
- Breeding colonies of the Little Penguin, Koala, Australian Fur Seal, Hooded Plover, Short-tailed Shearwater and Southern Brown Bandicoot.
- Signature local products that can showcase sustainable production to the world.

But it also faces **unprecedented challenges**:

- The environmental, social and economic pressures of rapid urban growth.
- Continued loss of habitat and biodiversity.
- A topography that is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- The possibility of substantial port development.

**"In our changing world, business as usual is not an option."**

## Why support the Biosphere Foundation with a tax-deductible gift?

We are committed to a **future of sustainable development**. We recognise that change is not only inevitable, but necessary.

We are **independent** and **uniquely placed** to work with government, business and industry, research and educational institutions, and the community.



All have a place on our board, ensuring a **balanced, whole-of-region perspective**.

We deliver a tailored program of research, education, community engagement, partnerships and on-ground activities—all backed with experience from **UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves**.