

19th MEETING OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTENPORT
Biosphere Research Committee meeting
to be held on Friday 28 November 2008 from 9.00 am – 11.00 am
Venue: Biosphere office, shop 4, 37-41 Victoria Street, Hastings (see map on next page)

PRESENT:

Dr. Terry Coates	Mr. Eligio Bruzzese
Mr. David Nicholls	Mr. Garrigue Pergl
Dr. Sharron Pfueller	Mr. Ian Stevenson
Mr. Peter Woodgate (Convenor)	

Observers:

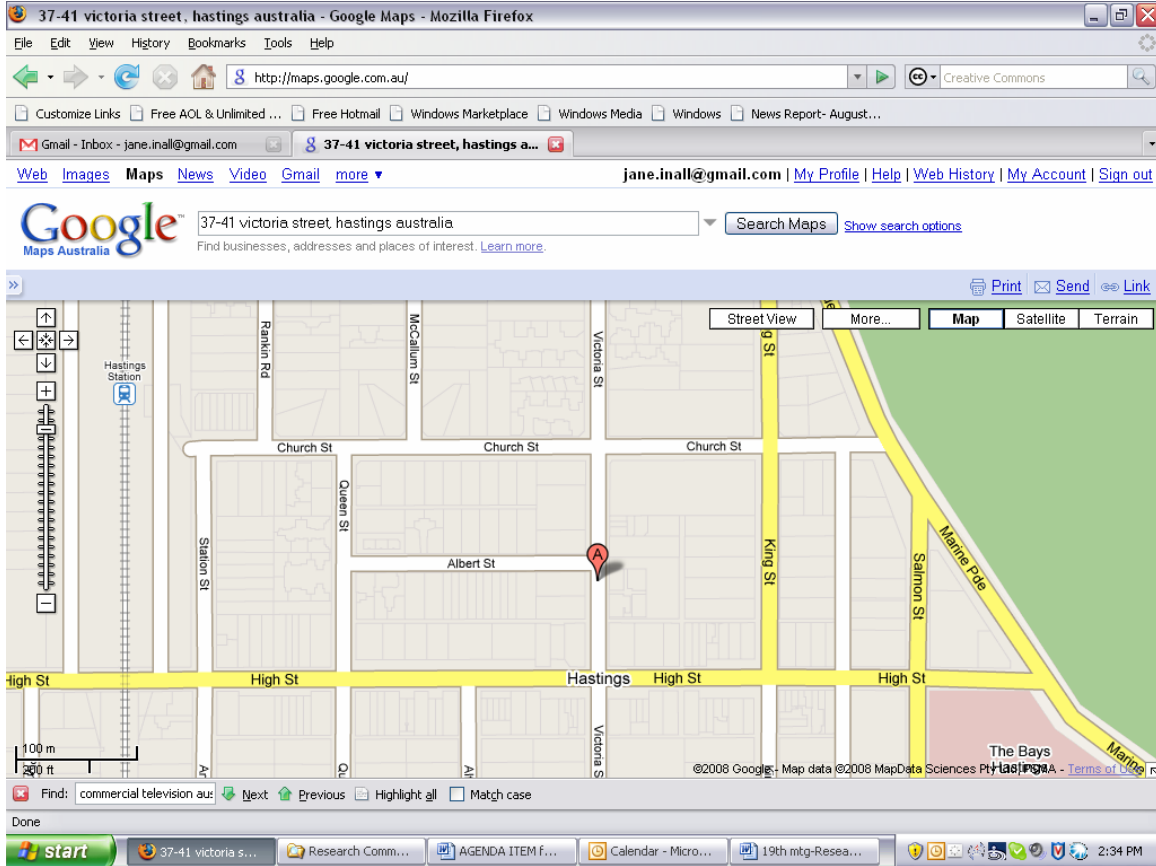
Mr. Jim Kerin	Prof. Kim Lowell
Mrs. Jane Inall (Minute taker)	Ms. Cecelia Witton

Apologies:

DRAFT AGENDA

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Apologies, Welcome and welcome Observers | Convenor |
| 2. Minutes of previous meeting | Convenor |
| 3. Actions arising from previous meetings | Convenor |
| 4. Report on Foundation Board | Convenor |
| 5. Education Strategy | S. Pfueller |
| 6. Research Activities (standing report on all projects): | Convenor/DN |
| 7. Presentation by Mr. Greg Hunt on the Impacts & Adaptations report | |
| 8. MP&WP Survey into research priorities | |
| 9. Foundation Board policy: rehabilitation and translocation programs for the SBB. | DN/Convenor |
| 10. World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, February 2008 Recommendations | XXXX |
| 11. Funding sources – grant application procedure | All |
| 12. Any other business | Convenor |
| 13. Meetings in 2009 | |

DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE Research Committee



**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 2 & 3: Minutes from the previous meeting and action list

1. PURPOSE

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2008.

2. ISSUES

None.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That approval be given to the minutes.

**Prepared by: Peter Woodgate, Convenor
Cleared by:**

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Research Committee

DRAFT Minutes of the
18th MEETING OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTENPORT
Biosphere Research Committee meeting
held on Friday 8 August 2008 at 9.00 am
Venue: Chisholm TAFE, Cranbourne

PRESENT:

Dr. Terry Coates Mr. David Nicholls
Mr. Garrique Pergl Dr. Sharron Pfueller
Mr. Ian Stevenson (part) Mr. Peter Woodgate (Convenor)

Observers:

Mr. Craig Forster
Mrs. Jane Inall (Minute taker)

Apologies:

Mr. Eligio Bruzzese
Mr. Jack Krohn, Company Secretary, Biosphere Foundation
Ms. Cecelia Witton, Executive Officer, Biosphere Foundation
Cr. Judy Wachendorfer

Note: Mr. Stevenson left the meeting at 11.15 am

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convenor welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in particular Mr. Craig Forster, as an Observer.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2008 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. OUTSTANDING OR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Action 2: Social survey: (Cecelia Witton/Sharron Pfueller): An update on the results of the survey was requested for the next Research Committee meeting.

ACTION 1: CW

Action 7: Contact with Birds Australia: Dr. Pfueller offered to contact Duncan McKenzie from the Riverland Biosphere to brief him on the MP&WP Biosphere with a view to Biosphere twinning opportunities and establishing a relationship with Birds Australia.

ACTION 2: SP

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Action 9: Paper from Mr. Nicholls to the Foundation Board on the preservation of wildlife corridors: this should be sent to the Convenor who will present it to the Foundation Board.

ACTION 3: DN/PW

Action 16: Application to Ross Trust: this issue will be progressed further at a Foundation Board meeting to be held on 4 September. Dr. Coates to work closely with the Convenor on finalising the application. Mr. Nicholls to circulate the draft application to Committee members for feedback to the Convenor.

ACTION 4: TC/DN/PW

4. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Convenor to prepare a brief summary for presentation to the Foundation Board meeting on 4 September which broadens the Southern Brown Bandicoot issue to an issue of complete leadership for biodiversity linkages and wildlife corridors across the whole of the Biosphere geographic area: to see this in the national context (Peninsula to Atherton Tablelands); need for critical partners: councils, Parks Victoria, DSE, CMAs, DEH, CEC, Melbourne Water. The idea is to broaden the adaptive project and use it as a springboard into the corridor development, effective conservation and the integrative role that the Biosphere can play across all bodies; the value of having green companies on board.

ACTION 5: PW

Mr. Nicholls provided a progress report on the Landscape Species workshop held on 22 July 2008. The Convenor congratulated Mr. Nicholls on the workshop. It was agreed to follow through on the issues raised in Frankston, before trying to implement them further afield.

5. ENDNOTE DATABASE

A copy of the database was given to the Convenor. It was recommended that the Foundation Board purchase Reference Manager, the necessary software to make the database accessible. The database will be forwarded to Ms. Cecelia Witton and Ms. Jane Jobe.

ACTION 6: PW

A copy of "A Reference Guide to the Ecology and Natural Resources of the Melbourne Region" was provided and will also be made available on the Biosphere website.

Open source software to be investigated in order to access the database.

ACTION 7: TC

It was agreed that once the database is available on the Biosphere website, an acknowledgement to Mr. Joseph Mungere, Masters Student of Environmental Sustainability, Monash University, be added in an appropriate location.

ACTION 8: JJ

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Once the database is on the Biosphere website, it was agreed that Ms. Witton will advise all those who assisted Joseph with the data collection.

ACTION 9: CW

Dr. Pfueller to forward a copy of Joseph's final report to the Convenor for onforwarding to Ms. Jobe for uploading to the website.

ACTION 10: SP/PW/JJ

6. PRESENTATION BY MR. GARRIQUE PERGL

Mr. Pergl gave an excellent presentation on the draft biodiversity action plan for the Mornington Peninsula (2005-2010). A summarised version of this presentation is attached to these minutes (Attachment 4).

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Mr. Pergl tabled a copy of Councillor Reade Smith's report from his attendance at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves held in Madrid in February 2008. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes (Attachment 3). Cr. Smith requested that the Research Committee consider Recommendations 2, 3 and 8. These recommendations are attached to these minutes (Attachment 2) and will be on the agenda for the next Research Committee meeting.

7.2 Mr. Forster briefed the meeting on his long-standing contact with interested parties in China. Mr. Forster to send these contact details to the Convenor (refer Attachment 1).

ACTION 11: CF

7.3 Mr. Forster also briefed the meeting on the creation of a sustainable centre at 1564 Nepean Highway Mt Eliza.

7.4 Dr. Coates will produce a one page report on the fencing issues including graph (before and after effects of fencing) to be circulated, out of session, to the Biosphere Board.

ACTION 12: TC/PW

7.5 The Convenor updated the meeting on the Federal Department of Climate Change coastal vulnerability research project and the creation of a National Elevation Digital Framework. The media press release on this initiative is attached to these minutes.

7.6 It was agreed to discuss the Education strategy at the next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to move the next meeting to Friday 28 November 2008 at 9.00 am. Venue to be advised closer to the date. Please diarise!

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.30 am.

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Research Committee

ACTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	PERSON RESP.	DUE DATE	STATUS REPORT
MEETING NO. 18 – FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 2008				
1	Update on the results of the survey was requested for the next Research Committee meeting.	CW		Done.
2	Dr. Pfueller to contact Duncan McKenzie from the Riverland Biosphere to brief him on the MP&WP Biosphere.	SP		Done.
3	Paper from Mr. Nicholls to the Foundation Board on the preservation of wildlife corridors to be sent to the Convenor who will present it to the Foundation Board.	DN/PW		Done.
4	Application to Ross Trust: Dr. Coates to work closely with the Convenor on finalising the application. Mr. Nicholls to circulate the draft application to Committee members for feedback to the Convenor.	DN/TC/PW		Ongoing.
5	The Convenor to prepare a brief summary for presentation to the Foundation Board meeting on 4 September which broadens the Southern Brown Bandicoot issue.	PW		Done.
6	The database to be given to Ms. Cecelia Witton and Ms. Jane Jobe.	PW		Done.
7	Open source software to be investigated in order to access the database.	TC		Done.
8	Acknowledgement to Mr. Joseph Mungere, Masters Student of Environmental Sustainability, Monash University, be added in an appropriate location on the website regarding the database.	JJ		Done.
9	Once the database is on the Biosphere website, Ms. Witton to advise all those who assisted Joseph with the data collection.	CW		Done.
10	Dr. Pfueller to forward a copy of Joseph's final report to the Convenor for onforwarding to Ms. Jobe for uploading to the website.	SP/PW/JJ		Done.
11	Mr. Forster to send details of his Chinese contacts to the Convenor.	CF		Done.

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12	Dr. Coates to produce a one page report on the fencing issues including graph (before and after effects of fencing) to be circulated, out of session, to the Biosphere Board.	TC/PW		Update required.
MEETING NO. 17 – FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2008				
13	Convenor to make contact with Birds Australia and UNESCO (via Reade Smith) to progress the issue.	PW		Not yet done.
15	Provide a paper to the Foundation Board on the need to preserve the wildlife corridors and the SBB. Messrs. Nicholls, Bruzzese and Stevenson will collaborate on this report.	DN/EB/IS		Done.
MEETING NO. 16 – FRIDAY 24 AUGUST 2007				
16	Jim Kerin to liaise with Prof. Williamson regarding sharing some of his students' material on the Biosphere website.	JK		Underway with Jane Jobe.
17	Re: "Biodiversity Hotspots" project: Res. Com.members and Obs requested to update list with contact information and other possible participants for proposed meeting, for forwarding on to Graham McLennan.	ALL		On hold.
	Jack Krohn to identify a suitable DSE representative to attend this meeting.	JK		Pending

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Research Committee**

For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 4: Report on Foundation Board

1. PURPOSE

A written report from Cecelia Witton, Executive Officer, Biosphere Foundation, following the Foundation Board meeting held on 20 November 2008, is attached.

2. ISSUES

None.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Research Committee to note.

Prepared by: Cecelia Witton
Cleared by: Convenor

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Research Committee**

**Executive Officer Report to Research Committee Meeting
28th November 2008**

Points from Board meeting held on 20th November 2008

Officer holders elected – Jack Krohn – Secretary/Public Officer, Jane Jobe - Deputy Chair, Jeff Weir - Treasurer

GVEHO Grant 2008/2009 application to be submitted to seek multi year administration support funding.

Ross Trust submission to be developed.

Meetings with Councils – Cecelia has held meetings with CEO's and Eco Development officers of Casey, Frankston, Cardina and MPS and is meeting with new Eco Deve Officer of Bass Coast on 21st November. These meetings are being held as part of the need addressed in the workshop held by the board in September to obtain feedback from Councils about the Biosphere and update them on our projects and plans as part of our focus in securing core funding

Mass Balance reported on meeting held 24th September 2008 CSIRO to undertake some revisions on the brief and provide them to Research Committee.

Langwarrin Creek – Meeting held with representatives Casey Council, Parks Vic Melb Water, to discuss proposal of regional project to include Queens Road Drain, Langwarrin Creek and Rutherford Inlet in the project that would be future stage of Watson Creek. This is follow up on meeting held in June to discuss single creek project. Stakeholder workshop planned for February 2009

Port of Hastings recent meeting with Ralph Kenyon to discuss role of Biosphere future strategic framework for POH.

UNESCO conference Jeju Province (South Korea) on Climate Change and Island and Coastal Communities is being held 3-6 December – Cecelia to attend and make presentation representing the Biosphere UNESCO paying.

Future Sustainability Leaders project as proposed by Caroline Cotton at Mass Balance meeting in September is progressing with Biosphere Ambassadors program to engage with the community via presentation at golf clubs, Rotary and business groups in each of the LGA's . Letter to be sent with proposal to Councils seeking support, with training and presentations to be developed early in the new year. Project to run January – June 2009

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Watson Creek Project to be focus of EPA Better Bays and Waterways case study. This has brought project to the attention of Federal funding area. Landholder and Stakeholder involvement is growing, boat trip being organised for these groups. School participation good. Water monitoring completed for this year.

Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery – David’s report tabled and discussion on fox control project took place. Posters and control measures provided were discussed and it was agreed that the contractor be engaged under the terms prepared by David in consultation with DSE and Dr Terry Coates and simple agreement signed.

Recommendations – Reade from Madrid –were reviewed and items 2 and 3 to be referred to the research committee

2. *Laboratories of Innovation*

- Concern expressed that community groups are blocking developments, based on poor or false information about the environment.
- Felt that the specific demographics of baby boomers, sea and tree changers and elderly citizens resistant to change made up these groups – that these are set in their ways and unsympathetic to change.
- Views that Biosphere Board should be another referral agency for major developments and that most applications for new developments barely meet ESD standards.
- An accreditation program should be set up to acknowledge developments that meet standards.

Comment: The Biosphere Board recognises the concept of being a laboratory, and it is essential that we communicate with all levels of the community. ESD standards, that have been set, need to be enforced by the arms of government responsible, it is not our role; however we can have constructive input into the process through dialogue. The Board is taking a more strategic role in the development process of the region.

Recommendation: That Board acknowledges the concerns expressed and that continued support and community education be provided for development concepts that exceed sustainable development guidelines. We should not develop an accreditation program as we are not in a position to administer or evaluate such a program at this time.

3. *Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources*

- Madrid Congress highlighted interest in services that the natural environment provides and would like research into what “ecosystem services” are provided and what is needed to improve the sustainability of those services.
- Better management of industries, production of food, assessment of food mileage and use of farming practices using introduced species, and the impact of climate change and the need to develop management plans to ensure food security and sustainability.

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- Felt that Biosphere should develop partnerships with farmers to be come more innovative and adaptive and assist to find markets for locally grown products.

Comment: The strategic role of Biosphere should encompass these aspects, but given present resources, this will be an area where progressive engagement evolves. Some aspects could be used a packages to attract investment from the corporate sector; however considerable ground work and research would need to be done with these industries to evaluate the risks and best practice.

Recommendation: That this concept be passed on to the Research Committee for evaluation and comment in 2009.

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Research Committee**

For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 5: Education Strategy
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1. PURPOSE

This is a standing agenda item and is included here to remind the Research Committee that in due course, it should initiate the preparation of an education strategy.

2. ISSUES

Attached is a draft proposal prepared by Dr. Pfueller on a proposed education strategy for the Biosphere.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

For the consideration of the Research Committee, at this meeting.

Prepared by: Peter Woodgate, Convenor

Cleared by:

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Research Committee**

Thoughts on an Education Strategy for the Biosphere Reserve

Sharron Pfueller

A core responsibility of biosphere reserves is to engage in education. It becomes an even more important matter to discuss because we are in the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development.

In thinking about an education strategy, I feel it is important to first raise a few questions.

Who is being educated?

Possible “targets” for education are:

- Biosphere members
- Non-members living within the boundaries of the Biosphere
- People outside the Biosphere for whom it may serve as some sort of example
- Schools
- All of the above

While we might wish to say “all of the above”, it is probably wise, given limited resources to prioritise this list.

What will education be about?

The major themes of the current United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development are:

- Gender equality
- Health promotion
- Environment
- Cultural diversity
- Peace and human security
- Sustainable urbanization
- Sustainable consumption

The UN is looking for reorientation of “existing education programs in all nations to address the social, environmental, and economic knowledge, skills, perspectives, and values inherent in sustainability.”

Depending on who is being educated thought needs to be given to the type or subject of education. Institutional education programs tend to categorise outcomes in terms of knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviour and many aim to provide a mix of all. Education focusing on skills may result in changes in attitudes and behaviour, but it is less likely that education focusing on knowledge and attitudes will lead to behaviour changes. In fact, much has been written on how increasing knowledge may not always lead to changes in attitudes and how frequently it fails to prompt any behavioural change (Mckenzie-Mohr, D. and Smith D. 1999. *Fostering sustainable behavior: an introduction to community-based social marketing*. Gabriola Island, B.C. New Society Publishers). Behaviour change is often best achieved by encouraging or forcing (e.g. through regulation) behaviours rather than increasing knowledge.

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The Biosphere will need to decide what it would like to achieve with education programs. Programs focusing on skills would be most likely to achieve behaviour change if that is what is desired. Some examples might be:

Program	Outcomes			
	Knowledge	Attitudes	Skills	Behaviour
The range of species found in the Biosphere Reserve	X	X?		
Strategies to conserve the SBB	X	X?	X	?
Ways in which the community contributes to water shortage	X	X?		
Ways a household can reduce their water use	X	X	X	?
How to install water saving devices	X	X	X	?
What the Biosphere is doing towards sustainability	X	?		
What contributes to Greenhouse gas emissions	X	X?		
How to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions	X	X?	X	?
Strategies for recycling	X	X?	X	?

Then decisions will need to be made about the topics. What are the most important areas to educate about? The above table is just the beginning of a list of possibilities.

How do we decide which topics?

Answering this question involves decisions about who will decide and what guidelines will be used in making the decision. Possible considerations for criteria for deciding might be:

- Most important to the world?
- Most important locally?
- Where we have access to a suitable expert?
- Environmental, social, economic or all three?

Who will be doing the educating?

Is the Research Committee the appropriate body to design/implement an education strategy?

Should there be a separate Education Committee?

Do we need people with skills in education?

Do we restrict our educators to members of the Biosphere? Residents in the Biosphere area? Or do we look for other experts?

What processes will be used?

In this current United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development considerable attention has been given to the processes of education. Research shows

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that within an institutional context, education for sustainability needs to develop skills in:

- Dealing with complexity and uncertainty
- Critical, systemic and futures thinking
- Action-oriented skills to motivate and manage change
- Engagement with the community and other stakeholders
- Multi-cultural understanding
- Practical problem solving and project management

It should be:

- Interdisciplinary
- Contextual
- Participatory
- Innovative

Educators generally tend to think that people learn best when engaged in some sort of practical task e.g. writing something, doing a project, building, monitoring.

Should the Biosphere's education also demonstrate these characteristics?

Can we use existing education programs?

Which of the following forms of delivery are appropriate?

- Forums
- Workshops involving discussion as well as experts
- Practical training programs
- Exhibitions
- Press releases
- Written material

What funding would be required?

It is unlikely that volunteer effort could be sufficient. Programs would need to be costed and funds sought.

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Research Committee**

For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 6: Research Activities

1. PURPOSE

To receive an update on the research projects.

2. ISSUES

Issues for consideration by the Research Committee:

- 2.1. A report on the Mass Balance workshop with CSIRO and local government representatives held on 24 September 2008 is attached.
- 2.2. Update following the meeting on 4 September with the Biosphere Board to develop the plan for securing significant additional funding for all Biosphere activities.
- 2.3. NHT Grants – see following paper.
- 2.4. Review of scientific progress

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee to discuss.

Prepared by: Convenor

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2.1 Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd

Minutes of Mass Balance Meeting

Held at Hastings on 24TH September 2008.

In attendance:

Dr. Graham Turner	Senior Analyst, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems
Dr. Heinz.Schandl	Senior Research Leader, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems
Mr. Garrique Pergl	Conservation Planner, Natural Systems, Mornington Peninsula Shire (MPS)
Mr. Ian Stevenson	Manager Environment & Heritage, Cardinia Shire
Mr. David Westlake	Environmental Projects Officer, City of Casey
Mr. Craig Hinton	Acting Environment Officer, City of Frankston
Mr. Shaun Young	Environmental Projects Officer Bass Coast Shire
Mr. Greg Hunt	Executive Officer, Western Port Greenhouse Alliance
Mr Peter Gore MPS	Cecelia Witton, and Caroline Cotton
Ms Cecelia Witton	Executive Officer, MPWP Biosphere
Ms Caroline Cotton	Guest of the Biosphere from the Monash Future Leaders Program
Dr Peter Woodgate	Chair Biosphere Research Committee

Purpose of Meeting

To consider the detailed project brief prepared by CSIRO to undertake a full ‘Mass Balance’ analysis of the flow of energy, water and recyclables within the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Foundation area (stages 1 and 2).

Introduction

Peter welcomed those present and asked each person present to introduce themselves and provided a short overview of how the meeting would proceed.

Ms Caroline Cotton of the Monash Future Leaders program made short presentation on the program and of the proposal for students to be mentored by the Biosphere in a project to raise the profile and community awareness of the Biosphere with various business and community organisations. It is proposed that further meetings with Biosphere representatives to plan “skilling up programs” for participants and the format of presentations will be held in the near future.

Council representative provided short overviews:

Mr Garrique Pergl - works being conducted by the MPS in conjunction with SE Water and Rural Water to develop management data, the shire has had a 2 year program mapping EVC’s Shire wide, mapping salt marsh, and native fauna with Arthur Rylah, some private properties included.

Mr Ian Stevenson - noted Cardinia were particularly interested in monitoring waste, water, water quality, energy, and key performance measures. They have set of 40 sustainability indicators for corporate planning. They are working on Precinct Plans and ESD strategies.

Mr David Westlake - noted Casey had similar works being undertake to that of Cardinia.

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Mr Greg Hunt – gave an over-view of WPGA work of various projects including sustainable public lighting, agricultural emissions, energy audits, carbon offsets and planning with farmers, practices to minimise greenhouse gas and work to reduce water and energy, and climate change impacts and carbon sequestration.

Mr Craig Hinton – noted the Frankston Street light project replacing lights. He questioned the relevance at a local level of data available (eg corporate data gas, water, and electricity).

Mr Shaun Young – noted had significant rural landholders issues.

There was a general agreement about the number of similar issues shared by all.

Dr Graham Turner provided power point presentation of the Mass Balance proposal and background information.

The following points for consideration in the project were raised:

Outcomes for the project

It must provide:

- Consistency
- Whole systems approach
- Stock Dynamics
- Identifying trends
- Detailed Process
- Explore future alternatives

Its benefits are:

- Data longevity
- Comparison over time
- Transparency
- Freed of Ideology
- Leading Edge research

Open discussion – issues raised:

QUESTION	ISSUE	RESPONSE	ACTIONS
Use of state and national data at local level	Would data be meaningful at a local level ie would it have sufficient detail?	all legitimate concerns –	Some very detailed local data available to improve coarser national data eg household expense survey's – price data can inform physical flow – closer to local trend. Other sources Review options
The fact that 3 waste management groups handle waste management across the Biosphere	Issues of coordination and duplication		

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Reflects the variability of the Biosphere	What about relevance at Municipal level	Project establishing process to Biosphere as a whole – bring in spatial and original data and fit into system, establish process capabilities and influence - may be ways.	Sources of data to be reviewed
Will it be useful to influence decisions	At a Municipal level	Yes	Will encourage Biosphere wide cooperation.
How does system accommodate this?	Varied make up of Biosphere region and issues faced by councils		Part of process to be established
Data gathering effort –	Sources/accuracy	agreed most information readily available	Sources to be listed
Scalability- can it be realistically bought down to council level and cost to scale it down?	Relevance of information \$ to scale	Previous work undertaken elsewhere shown that the project can scale from national to regional to local	A guide to be provided as to how this can be done
Repeatability – is this a one off or part of a trend tracking process ?	\$ to repeat ownership	CSIRO could update or Biosphere could Updating after census and years in between	A guide to be provided

CONCLUSIONS

1. This is probably the first time a Biosphere anywhere in the world has attempted a Mass Balance analysis. We could therefore establish a worlds first.
2. There is broad support from the Councils for the project to proceed.
3. One of the key benefits will be the projects ability to help promote a combined approach across the Biosphere Councils in tackling very significant issues. This will also help with setting targets.
4. The project will help with a ‘gap analysis’ of significant deficiencies in information and knowledge for decision making
5. The project will take a ‘systems’ view of the region that will be very helpful in improving the understanding of the impacts of planning decisions and of behaviours in the community.
6. The ‘systems view’ will help improve our understanding of the interaction between water, energy and waste and land use.
7. It will improve our ability to ‘look into the future’.

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8. The work in leading edge and new.

NEXT STEPS

1. CSIRO to revise the brief following the meeting and to review the budget and timelines.
2. The revised brief to be brought back to the Biosphere Research Committee. This Committee next meets on 28 November but the revised brief can be circulated before then for an out-of session approval.
3. Biosphere Research Committee to then make a recommendation to the Biosphere Foundation Board. Funding to be sought from the Biosphere, the Councils, philanthropic organisations and the state government. Note CSIRO will be a co-investor.

The intention would be to agree to fund and start the project before the end of calendar 2008.

Prepared by:

Cecelia Witton and Peter Woodgate
9 October 2008

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Research Committee

2.3 To consider progress for the NHT Grants: The Pines; Koo Wee Rup Fox Control & Habitat restoration.

Issues:

The Pines grant is partially complete. An extension has been requested and a 6month was likely to be approved. Outstanding tasks include: autumn 2009 planting, Pines neighbours attitudes survey and the Landscape Species project. Completion remains a challenge.

Fox Control has been discussed with WWF, the NHT manager. We have been authorized to continue our plan which is to establish the fox control bait stations, free-feed to measure the real risks in our local context and not use poison until there is community acceptance. There has been on-going cooperation with DSE in the preparation of policies, procedures and the selection of a suitable contractor. Caution is still the Biosphere's favoured approach though this conflicts with the contract signed with WWF.

With respect to the fox control, we remain in close contact with Cardinia Shire-MW-City of Casey. We had been assured we will be included in the 2nd round of consultation. A new approach has been initiated with City of Casey to begin the planning for fox control on with Foreshore Committee of Management of the public land. The public land (Bandicoot Corner – definitely has, Bayles Fauna Park, and perhaps the Coastal Reserves of Tooradin, Cannons Creek, Warneet, Quail Island, Yaringa all have Statutory Planning restrictions which requires DSE approval).

Please see the following papers that describe our fox control program. Included are posters, map and report, as prepared for The Board 19 November. These are attached to the email containing these meeting papers.

- Bandicoot Recovery Fox Contro_Contract3.doc - a dot point list of the elements of the fox control program – an overview;
- FoxControlPlanDiary2008-2009_15xi08.pdf – a schematic version of the fox control plan;
- Southern Brown Bandicoot_Poster7.pdf - a description of the Recovery effort;
- GIS Map Barwise.pdf - an example of the map prepared from our GIS to ensure and document the legal requirements for use of 1080;
- Southern Brown Bandicoot_PosterFox4.pdf - a poster prepared for distribution in the community, initially the Cranbourne region but eventually Biosphere-wide.

The Koo Wee Rup Habitat restoration project is largely complete. Three thousand plants have been planted, >100 bandicoot artificial homes distributed and >~4 km of fence installed securing >~2 ha of private property. On track.

Recommendation:

The Research Committee to note progress.

Prepared by: David Nicholls
Cleared by: David Nicholls

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

2.4 Review of scientific progress

Purpose:

1. To provide news on the scientific aspects.

Issues:

Security cameras have been deployed to provide accurate monitoring of fox and non-target activity. See new pictures and notes on web site.

New sightings of bandicoots. Koo Wee Rup, Cranbourne South, Quail Island.

Actions for the EESs. Jane Jobe made a private submission to the Desalination pipeline.

We must prepare a response for the Frankston By Pass EES.

DSE West Gippsland Surveys.

Recommendation:

Decide a course of action for the Frankston EES.

Prepared by: David Nicholls

Cleared by: David Nicholls & Terry Coates

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 7: Presentation by Mr. Greg Hunt on the Impacts & Adaptations report

1. PURPOSE

Mr. Greg Hunt will report on the Western Port Human Settlements Impacts and Adaptations Project. In this project, CSIRO projections for such climate change impacts as sea level rise, storm frequency and rainfall levels at the sub-regional level were established. The consequences of these impacts for human settlements and infrastructure were assessed so that councils and their communities can anticipate and plan for the future changes that will occur.

2. ISSUES

For discussion.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee to note.

Prepared by: Convenor

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 8: MP&WP Survey into Research Priorities
--

1. PURPOSE

To review the results from the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation survey of priorities relating to research topics.

2. ISSUES

Overall, some 250 emails were sent out and 30 individuals/organisations responded. The top 5 ranking research priorities (based on number of responses) were – from the top down:

- 1 = Western Port Study
- 2 = Respondents' Suggestions (Topic 10)
- 3 = Inventory Of Biosphere
- 4 = Southern Brown Bandicoot
- 5 = Core Indicators

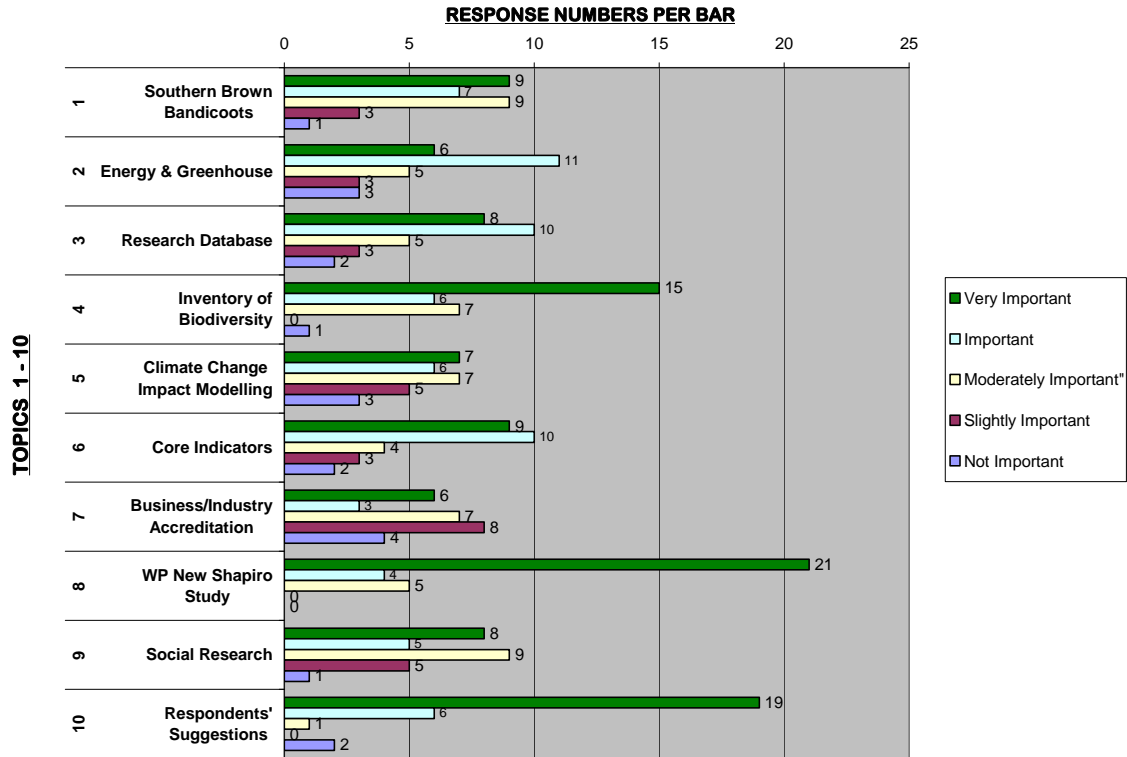
From reading the RESPONDENTS' SUGGESTIONS, it becomes clear that many saw this as an opportunity to express their general concerns. In 2005, when the Mornington Peninsula Roundtable conducted a general "environmental awareness" type survey, very similar comments were received, expressing concerns for the further diminishing habitat and biodiversity due to the region's development/urbanisation and the indifference of too many private larger acreage landholders.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee to discuss.

Prepared by: Convenor

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**



TOPICS		RATING					TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES PER TOPIC
		NOT IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	
No.		1	2	3	4	5	
1	Southern Brown Bandicoots	1	3	9	7	9	29
2	Energy & Greenhouse	3	3	5	11	6	28
3	Research Database	2	3	5	10	8	28
4	Inventory of Biodiversity	1	0	7	6	15	29
5	Climate Change Impact Modelling	3	5	7	6	7	28
6	Core Indicators	2	3	4	10	9	28
7	Business/Industry Accreditation	4	8	7	3	6	28
8	WP New Shapiro Study	0	0	5	4	21	30
9	Social Research	1	5	9	5	8	28
10	Respondents' Suggestions	2	0	1	6	19	28
TOTAL RESPONDENTS TO SURVEY							33

NOTE:

The "0" in Rating columns 1 and 2 is the result of Topics 1-9 receiving no comments from 2 respondents.
 Only 28 Respondents offered suggestions under Topic 10.
 All above Ratings tallies are based on 1 point per "vote" irrespective of the 1-5 ranking (ie. scores are not weighted to reflect ranking).

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		RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED / COMMENTS
No.	RT	
1	MP	<i>Consolidating available research data bases from Federal, State, Local Governments, and all the “centres of science and research” – to create one database for all.</i>
2	?	<i>Sustainable carrying capacity for the Biosphere reserve (human population)</i>
3	BC	<i>None</i>
4	MP	<i>Follow on from Topic 2 below – What are the most effective options to increase energy efficiency using waste heat or other sources? Where is improvement effort best directed in this general field of endeavour?</i>
5	Casey	<i>Monitor water quality</i>
6	MP	<i>(a) Membership growth – explore ways to increase membership of MP&WP BRP annually by 10 % (b) National network of Biosphere reserves – explore ways to encourage communities nationwide to apply for MaB Charter. (c) Establish a South Eastern Centre for Sustainability.</i>
7	Frank.	<i>Must FIRST stabilize our population, because everything we are doing is severely undone by the ever increasing pressure of polluters and consumers.</i>
8	MP	<i>Co-ordination of Groups volunteering work on different environmental projects to provide legal, technical and scientific backup for better community fulfilment.</i>
9	MP	<i>None</i>
10	Casey	<i>Elaborate Topic 4 to include a spreadsheet of information that would encompass everything from seed genetics and propagation systems, to things like modelling scenarios T5 and T1, health of species since Shapiro Study (T8), and social research history. Create massive matrix of information, where things such as T3, T2 and T6 can be included. Perhaps include “business impact” and “domestic impact” columns that quantify species health specifically, and indicate directions for future conservation. Please call for more information APRIL 0417 581 257.</i>
11	MP	<i>Increase participating in sustainable living and business practices:- - R&D model programs suitable for that work. - Apply community based social marketing (CBSM) approach. Additional comments:- T2 – include behaviour change with CBSM approach. T3 – overlaps with Western Port Research Coord. Project 2003. T5 – key species and/or ecosystems. T9 – expand consultation and collaboration beyond community, industry and government, and use CBSM approach.</i>
12	MP	<i>To make road reserves and nature strips wildlife corridors. Stop slashing/mowing and planting inappropriate species of flora on Council road reserves.</i>
13	Card.	<i>None</i>
14	MP	<i>None</i>
15	MP	<i>None</i>
16	MP	<i>Develop a strategic framework for the protection and rehabilitation of all existing native flora & fauna on the Peninsula, especially for domestic (residential), rural residential (small acreage) and rural properties. My ratings [that] I have given for the research topics require some qualification, but basically I would</i>

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		<p><i>always give a higher priority on a topic that has positive action and a lesser priority on surveys & plans that have no determinations of time frames for action(s) to be taken.</i></p> <p><i>I have lived on the MP for over 45 years and have gradually seen the degradation of our native flora & fauna – especially accelerating degradation over the past 10 years – both terrestrially and the aquatic environment.</i></p> <p><i>Many areas that “council” has “cleaned up” due to many “excuses” have now produced a visually aesthetic vista for humans – but has produced a “floristic sterile” (*) environment. I now reside on 6 ½ acres at St Andrews Beach and have seen removal (illegally) of acres of native vegetation with Council’s knowledge and no consequence – and it is still occurring.</i></p> <p><i>(* severely reduced habitat for fauna)</i></p> <p><i>If you wish to personally see and qualify my above comments, please phone ANDREW RAFF 5988 6921.</i></p>
17		<p><i>The issue is one of partnerships and focus: with the National Centre for Coasts and Climate to be established at Pt Nepean, its focus should be expanded to Parks and the Biosphere.</i></p>
18	Casey	<p><i>Sustainable population (state, national and regional) – implications for Port Phillip and Western Port Bays of increased population.</i></p>
19	MP	<p><i>Investigation of the feasibility and value of urban based habitats:</i></p> <p><i>Instead of parks, I suggest we investigate the establishment of neighbourhood habitat areas with town boundaries. Habitat areas would include indigenous trees that would attract indigenous birds which would, in turn, assist in maintaining the health of the trees, and also assist in decreasing the insect populations. Similarly, a frog pond would assist in maintaining a balanced ecosystem, which, among other things, would also help control the insect population.</i></p> <p><i>Other ecosystems could be established, which would provide a service to the local community in terms of maintaining a healthy environment. The habitat areas would need to be made physically secure to prevent vandals and local pets doing damage.</i></p> <p><i>The habitat areas, once established should be designed to be relatively maintenance free and let nature take over. These habitat areas would have an educational value in informing people of the natural systems that provide essential roles in the survival of us humans.</i></p>
20		<p><i>Climate change impact by 2020 on Landcare Natural Resources Management: will what we do today be still relevant in 2020 ?</i></p> <p><i>Do we need to plant different species, form different habitat ?</i></p>
21	MP	<p><i>There are all excellent topics.</i></p> <p><i>How to motive Morn. Pen. property owners (especially those who are not permanent residents) to rehabilitate their land with indigenous flora and to respect and protect indigenous fauna.</i></p> <p><i>Figure out how to change property laws to legislate for the changes needed to save this environment.</i></p> <p><i>Re T7 Business Accreditation – unless you have clout this is meaningless.</i></p> <p><i>Re T9 Social Research – see my comments for T10 above.</i></p>
22	MP	<p><i>The list of topics covers most items for the foreseeable future. PENBOC would emphasise the importance of Topics 4 and 8.</i></p>
23	MP	<p><i>Population growth in relation to its effects on all the topics.</i></p> <p><i>T2 should also include carbon emission.</i></p> <p><i>T4 (Biodiversity Inventory) should also include corridor or connection zones.</i></p> <p><i>T5 should include housing and accommodation models.</i></p> <p><i>T7 (Accreditation) should include transparent accounting for carbon emissions.</i></p> <p><i>T8 (WP Study) should include channel deepening of both bays, and threats to Western Port.</i></p> <p><i>T9 (Social Research) should include education at all levels.</i></p>
24		<p><i>Waste to Biofuel conversion</i></p>
25	MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Inventory of indigenous ecosystem service.</i> <i>- Inventory of projects and activities already occurring within the Biosphere that fit the MaB methodology.</i>
26	?	<p><i>Habitat Health Map:</i></p>

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		<i>I have been concerned with the reduction/loss of native flora and habitat areas in the 5 years I have been living here, so would like to see an extension of Topic 4 to create a Habitat Health Map of local government areas. The map could show areas lost in the last 5 years, current habitat areas and be updated with potential habitat loss due to forecast development. Such a map would make a visual impact and help inform the community, which would in turn give strength to lobbying local and state governments.</i>
27	Frank.	<i>Ways/methods by which the Biosphere can approach and negotiate with State and Local Govt Statutory and Strategic Planners to adjust/equip State and Local Planning Schemes AND ways by which the Biosphere can approach and negotiate with private enterprise to engage them in partnerships with the Biosphere to sustain its values, etc.</i>
28	Frank.	<i>(i) Do study to investigate the amount of habitat that has been lost in the past 25 years due to indiscriminate rezoning of rural lands to residential or light industrial in the Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment areas. (ii) Conduct a study of the flora and fauna lost in the same time frame.</i>
29	Frank.	<i>Creating an easily accessible database of successful efforts around the globe to arrest biodiversity decline. Publish the results widely and in non-traditional avenues, so that the widest possible community of interest can benefit from models of positive efforts.</i>
30	BC	<i>Supporting a post-Shapiro study of Western Port should be a priority.</i>
31	BC	<i>PINP believe that the MP&WP BR should focus on protection of high conservation habitat. To achieve this, there needs to be a number of steps undertaken:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>– Identify key high conservation land and water.</i> <i>– Identify threats to this land/water.</i> <i>– Identify suitable buffers to this land/water.</i> <i>– Lobby and seek covenants/environmental planning overlays and other protection measures to protect these buffer zones.</i> <i>– Seek improvements in habitat quality and reduce threats to conservation areas and buffer areas.</i> <i>Other protection measures include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>– incorporating planning policy into planning law, eg. lobbying for incorporating Coastal Spaces into the planning scheme of local councils</i> <i>– Clarification and review of Environmental Significance overlays</i> <i>– Increasing awareness of covenants, etc.</i>
32	BC	<i>– The Southern Brown Bandicoots would be good.</i> <i>– Research to support existing things like the Western Port count, Orange Bellied Parrot count, Swift Parrot count, etc.</i> <i>– It would be useful to have a web page with all the reports in one place; particularly those that are out of print, or by developers, or students – these could be made into a PDF and stored on the web. A lot of studies by consultants end up in planning files but never see the light of day anywhere else.</i> <i>– It would also be great if somehow reports, such as flora and fauna, done by consultants, could be made into layers that the councils could integrate into their systems – or at least ensure they are available in the public domain. After all, if they make it to the shire councils technically, they are a public document – just not a very available one.</i> <i>– Melbourne Water also has unpublished reports that should be accessible.</i> <i>– Some sort of assessment of this untapped resource would be good.</i>
33		<i>– It would be valuable to conduct an education and awareness program re the Biosphere. The Western Port Awareness Program, run by the Department of Conservation soon after Shapiro and ending in the 1980s, was very effective at changing the way people looked at Western Port’s environment.</i> <i>– We should be looking at the cultural aspects of our charter as well as the environmental ones.</i> <i>If you wish further assistance, I have academic contacts that could help launch some post-graduate research in this area.</i>

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 9: Foundation Board policy – rehabilitation and translocation programs for the SBB

Purpose:

1. To consider setting an in-principle policy position for the Biosphere Foundation of supporting rehabilitation and translocation programs for the sbb.
2. To consider specific support for Rob McNaught’s proposal to re-establish SBBs on his 800 acre property on the Peninsula

Issues:

Mr. Rob McNaught has an 800 acre property including 150 acres of Moonah woodland surrounded by swamp woodland in an EVC known to support Southern Brown Bandicoots elsewhere even though they are not present on Rob’s property.

Mr. McNaught would like to explore the possibility of reintroducing the SBB to his property.

David Nicholls has referred the issues to DSE’s Bandicoot technical committee (next meeting).

The Biosphere does not have a formal policy position on supporting rehabilitation (including translocation) programs for SBB.

Mr McNaught has approached the Biosphere for advice.

Recommendation:

That the Biosphere Research Committee debate the issues involved in both supporting Rob McNaugh’ts specific request for support for rehabilitating the SBB and also debate the merits of moving the Biosphere Foundation to establish a formal policy supporting the principle of rehabilitation.

Prepared by: Peter Woodgate

Cleared by: David Nicholls

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 10: World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, February 2008 recommendations

1. PURPOSE

To consider some of the recommendations arising from Councillor Reade Smith's report on his attendance at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves held in Madrid in February 2008.

2. ISSUES

At the last Research Committee meeting, Mr. Pergl tabled a copy of Councillor Reade Smith's report from his attendance at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves held in Madrid in February 2008. A copy of the report was circulated to Research Committee members. Cr. Smith requested that the Research Committee consider Recommendations 2, 3 and 8. These recommendations follow this briefing page.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

For consideration.

Prepared by: Convenor

DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee

**Extract from report by Councillor Reade Smith, on the 3rd World Congress of
Biosphere Reserves held in Madrid, February 2008**

**RECOMMENDATION 2: Laboratories of Innovation, Biosphere Reserves to be
used as pilots for sustainable projects and community education. (Page 13 MAP)**

As a Shire Councillor I am seeing a growing number of community groups being formed to block new developments and renovations to old buildings. I see that many of the environmentally focused objections against these new developments are being based on poor or false information about the environment. Most of the concerns relate to visual, personal and even perceived threats to amenity. The membership of these groups is specific to a certain demographic being 'sea' and 'tree changers' made up of elderly citizens and baby boomers.

The concept of using BR's as Laboratories for Innovation is an excellent opportunity to avoid 'doing what we have always done and getting what we have always got'. My concern is that these growing number of resident groups appear to choose not to understand the need for innovation, the need to 'try something new' in order for society to adapt to and mitigate against climate change. It is widely written in books and editorials by well known social demographers that this demographic is very set in their way and unsympathetic toward the need for change even if it is for the betterment of society.

One of the core roles of the Biosphere Foundation is to educate the community, and we are achieving this very well in regard to the next generation, but I believe that we need to focus much of our attention on 'changing the existing habits' of the two generations that have contributed most to the planets climate and environmental problems.

The presentation by the South African group highlighted to me the need for biosphere boards to be another referral agency for major developments. The South African model shows how a BR foundation can persuade both government and private entities within their region of influence to create pilot projects and develop new ideas.

It is my opinion that most applications for new developments or major renovations on the Peninsula only just meet the standard ESD guidelines set by government agencies. It is rare to come across an application where the developer is making efforts to exceed those standards or strive to be innovative. Speaking with experienced developers reveals that this is due to their fear of community backlash by the influential resident groups mentioned above. A current example is the proposed redevelopment and upgrade to the Safeway Shopping Complex in Mt Eliza where local residents opposing the upgrade are being photographed beside Cyprus trees with stuffed Koalas. These groups are also demanding more car-parking in villages that are close to residential areas and easily accessible on foot or by public transport.

I understand that the Biosphere Foundation is already consulting with and having some influence in regard to the Port of Hastings study. We should expand the influence of the Foundation by encouraging developers to consider more innovative design, to want to enhance the sustainability of their projects and by influencing the community to support developments that exceed the sustainability guidelines set by all levels of Government.

This could be achieved via the development of a Biosphere Accreditation Program and much community education.

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The Mornington Peninsula Shire is currently highlighting its use of the evidence based planning approach which should help to overcome the emotion that regularly influences the planning process. The MP&WP Biosphere Foundation through the Biosphere Research committee should be able to assist developers to create better ESD outcomes through good evidence based advice.

The Urban Eco City model may be worth looking at in more detail to help with this.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Ecosystem Services and the sustainable use of natural resources.

The congress highlighted my interest in the services that the natural environment within our Biosphere provides to the survival of the Humans and creatures that also live within its boundary. I would like to see some research into what ‘ecosystem services’ are provided and what is needed to improve the sustainability of each of those services. This research would assist us to target projects that should involve the CSIRO, Victorian Farmers Federation and Chambers of Commerce.

Highlighting the value of the services that the environment provides could assist us to create the paradigm shift within the community that we need. A database of Indigenous Knowledge should be developed that can help farmers, fisherman, etc to better manage their industry and to assist to develop new products and industries.

For example; currently the predominant produce industries on the Mornington Peninsula are wine, poultry and beef complemented by a few market gardens and many small boutique industries. Food miles are excessive as much of the produce leaves the peninsula via truck to inner suburban distribution centres. The question is how much of the produce consumed on the peninsula performs a round trip.

Some successful models for ‘sustainable adaptation and mitigation’ prove the allegory that ‘old is new again’ such as the emergence of farmers markets and talk about the need to develop farmers co-operatives similar to those that once dotted the region when rail was the dominant form of transportation. When fuel becomes more expensive there will be a need for more local markets and distribution centres.

Farmers Co-operatives may even become the new supermarkets.

Many experts are concerned about our societies reliance on current farming practices involving introduced species, monocultures and genetic engineering as well as the failure of many farmers to adapt or be innovative. There is fear that this could result in doom and gloom (the current drought, the debate over excessively water intensive crops and the threat of the chicken flu are examples).

Just as business develops recovery plans to deal with situations resulting in loss of data as a result of breakdown or virus attack, the biosphere foundation can help the farming industry in a similar way. Farming regions need to plan to adapt to climate change, to deal with virus or infestation that could cause the economic and social doom and gloom that we so dread.

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I have spoken with ‘experts’ about the need for such contingency plans and am told that ‘the market’ or ‘the government’ would sort out the problem if it was to occur, such as with the recent horse flu, floods and storm events. In my opinion this view isn’t good enough and is not sustainable. Victorian Shires are required by legislation to develop Emergency Management Plans in partnership with local emergency services and so a similar contingency plan should be developed in relation to food security and sustainability.

My advice is that the Biosphere Foundation should be developing a partnership project that will help farmers to become innovative and adaptable and to assist them to find markets for locally grown and produced indigenous products while developing the food security contingency plan. The Biosphere research Committee could research and publish information about produce naturally occurring within the Biosphere region and the indigenous knowledge about these species.

RECOMMENDATION 8: Marketing and Event Management.

It is my opinion that the MP&WP Biosphere Foundation should attract the services of Marketing and Event management agencies to assist the board to promote the entity and methodology to the wider community.

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

For info	
Decision	YES

ITEM 11: Funding sources – grant application procedure
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1. PURPOSE

To discuss any issues relating to funding sources and to review the attached final draft of the proposed application procedure.

2. ISSUES

Refer attached form and list of funding sources. This list is maintained by the Convenor, Peter Woodgate. Please feel free to advise Peter at any time of updates to this list.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

All Committee members to maintain an active interest in keeping the list of funding sources up to date.

Prepared by: Convenor
Cleared by:

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

Biosphere Research Project Proposal Form

This form is to be used by anyone who would like to suggest a new research project for consideration by the Biosphere Foundation. Advisory notes to help complete this form and provide guidance on the approvals process are given at the end of this document.

Project Leader:
Project Title
Project Number:
Commencement Date:
Completion Date:
Project Participants

**Budget Request from
the Biosphere
Foundation**

Year 1 \$
Year 2 \$

Project Summary:

PROJECT INFORMATION

Background:

Succinctly state the nature of the proposal,

Objectives:

Description - *list the objectives of this work*

Strategic fit - *describe how each objective fits with the Biosphere Foundations Living Strategy Plan*

Benefits to the Biosphere Foundation – *describe where possible/practicable*

Demonstration– *how will the successful outcomes be demonstrated?*

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Research Committee**

Outcomes (Deliverables)

Describe what the project will produce.

Key Assumptions & Risk Analysis

Risk Analysis - *identify these and indicate relative degree of risk (high, medium, low)*

BACKGROUND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Identify any background IP being brought to the project

- From Project Participants
- To Be Acquired From Other Sources

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PROBLEMS

PART B: PROJECT PLAN

PROJECT MILESTONES

Task - describe in detail the work to be undertaken.

Milestones - define milestones for each quarter of the proposed duration. These must be discrete events and include minimal subjective or qualitative evaluations.

Deliverable - define milestones for each quarter of the proposed duration. These must be quantifiable achievements and include minimal subjective or qualitative evaluations.

Task	Milestone	Deliverable	Participant				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.						•	
2.						•	

• Denotes Milestone and Quarter at which Deliverable is required.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BIOSPHERE FOUNDATION

Project Budget	Year 1, Qtr 1	Year 1, Qtr 2
-----------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

**DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee**

Salaries	
Travel Equipment	
Total	

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS
(PERSONNEL)**

Resource	Start Date	End Date	% of time utilised

DATA ACCESS & EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT SUMMARY

Resource	Start Date	End Date	% util	Agreed With

STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNICATION

Stakeholders	How Affected	Method Of Communication

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Research Committee

ADVISORY NOTES

Rationale:

To set up a *due diligence* process for the appraisal of:

- Biosphere led research initiatives;
- Applications to the Biosphere by other organisations and individuals to conduct research in or with the Biosphere;
- Applications to the Biosphere for an endorsement or badging of an activity / entity as “Biosphere approved”.

Further, to provide a brief project pro forma / application form.

Draft application protocol:

- Obtain & complete the research project pro forma
- Present pro forma to the Biosphere Research Committee (BRC)
- BRC will review and provide comment on the proposal.
 - BRC reserve the right to appoint independent reviewers to aide them in this process.
 - Consideration will be given to both the scientific / technical quality of the proposal (incl. science, ethics & collaboration) and its alignment to the Biosphere R&D Plan and Biosphere Business Plan.
- A written review will then be provided to the applicants (incl. clear instructions on necessary changes & an indication of likely success)
- The BRC will send a copy of these reviews to Foundation Board via Chair’s report / minutes
- The application pro forma and full proposal should then be resubmitted to the BRC for approval. Endorsement of the application will be via the Foundation board.
- All funding proposals must be endorsed by the BRC / Board before submission to research granting agencies.
- Copy of final proposal to be lodged for records with Research Committee and Executive Officer.

The Research Committee also wishes to note that:

- On occasion, there may be a need for endorsement out of session.
- That an application may be reviewed by the full research committee, a grant sub-committee, or nominated independent reviewers. Occasionally, a member of the BRC (or observer), will act as an advocate for a Biosphere led research initiative.
- The role of the BRC is advisory and that it is the Foundation board that endorses / approves an application.

DRAFT MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERNPORT BIOSPHERE
Research Committee

Draft Research Project Application Process & Pro Forma

Rationale:

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Pro Forma:

- Title
- Abstract (100 words);
- Outcomes (100 words);
- List of investigators and affiliations;
- Timelines of major components;
- Source of funding sort

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Research Committee

Easygrants Report July 2007
Opportunities for EV

Grant making Body	Contact Details	Closing Date	Amount Generally Funded	Priority Areas	EV Project Suitable
Adobe Software Donation Program	1300 550 205 http://www.giftsinkind.org/resources/software.asp https://adobeprograms.giftsinkind.org/app_international.pdf	<i>ongoing</i>	In kind – up to 4 software licences	To provide schools and non profits with the tools they need to provide digital technology and visual literacy to the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Schools ◆ Affiliates ◆ EV
ANZ Staff Foundation Grants	03 9273 2701 1800 808 910 http://www.anz.com.au/aus/aboutanz/Community/Programs/StaffFound.asp	<i>15 Jan 2007</i> 15 July 2007	Max. \$30,000	Includes: assist communities to conserve resources and protect the environment – priorities to projects including ANZ staff involvement of some sort.	◆ Affiliates
ANZ Charitable Trusts - William Buckland Foundation	http://www.anz.com.au/australia/charitabletrusts/guNamedit.asp#WillBuck 1800 808 910 03 9273 2701	1 Jan 2007 <i>1 April 2007</i> <i>1 July 2007</i> 1 Oct 2007	prefer not less than \$10,000	public scientific and public education (but not schools and preferably agriculture related) get half of the money	◆ Affiliates
George Alexander Foundation	http://www.gafoundation.org.au/	<i>1 Febr 2007</i>	various	To prevent irreversible damage to the environment and	◆ Affiliates

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	03 9650 3188	<i>1 May 2007</i> 1 Aug. 2007 <i>1 Nov. 2007</i>		encourage the maintenance of biodiversity	
Andrews Foundation	9793 4722 http://www.andrewsfoundation.org.au/	3 Mar. 2007 2 June 2007 3 Nov 2007	various	To support the local South-East growth corridor community (Pakenham to Est Gippsland, but includes Mornington Pen). Prefer one-off capital works	◆ Local Affiliates
Australia Post Community Development Grant - Landcare	http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=9 (02) 9412 1040 1800 151 105	31 May 2007 14 Sept 2007	\$3,300 max.	To fund work, tools/equipment, awareness for local environment projects	◆ Affiliates
BHP Billiton Corporate Community Program	http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bbContentRepository/SustainableDev/Community/SupportGuidelinesFoundation/Guidelines.pdf Nicole.Crook@bhpbilliton.com (03) 9609 3341	<i>1 Mar 2007</i> 1 Aug 2007 <i>1 Nov. 2007</i>	Min \$50,000 Max. \$200,000	To provide sustainable long term social and environmental benefits. Will support multi-year projects up to 3 years.	◆ could be any program
Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund – Landcare Australia	02 9412 1040 1800 151 105 https://wic004tv.server-secure.com/vs154616_secure/resources/Bundy_Grant	ongoing	Min \$1,100 Max. \$5,500	To assist landcare and community groups tackle water quality projects	◆ Affiliates doing work with creeks, wetlands, etc

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	Guidelines_final.doc				
Caltex Sponsorship Program	http://www.caltex.com.au/community_spo.asp	ongoing	Various	Focus on community groups near major Caltex facilities. Environmental aspect might include: research, community education, air/water quality, wetlands	◆ Local Affiliates
City West Water – Community Support Program	enquiries@citywestwater.com.au http://www.citywestwater.com.au/	ongoing	\$5,000 max.	Environmental and community focussed projects in City West’s suburbs of operation	◆ Affiliates in local area
Coles Group Community Grants Programme	http://www.colesgroup.com.au/library/AboutUs/Community_grant_Guidelines.pdf (03) 9829 4434	31 Aug 2007	\$5k to \$50K from a pool of \$100K	Environment is one of four categories. Gives money to community around a Coles store	◆ Local Affiliates
Corangamite Shire Council – Environment Grants	Environment Project Officer (03) 5593 7100	31 Aug 2007	Up to \$2,000 on a dollar for dollar basis	biodiversity protection, revegetation with indigenous species, waste and recycling initiatives, energy conservation, water conservation and educational activities.	◆ Affiliates in local area
Envirofund – Natural Heritage Trust – Round 10 Coastal and Marine	http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/index.html http://hermes.erin.gov.au/ciurf/env10/index.shtml	20 July 2007	Max \$50,000 from pool of \$4M	To help communities undertake local projects aimed at protecting our coastal catchments, ecosystems and the marine	◆ Affiliates

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	1800 303 863 envirofund@daff.gov.au .			environment	
Equity Trustees	http://www.equitytrustees.com.au/pdf_files/Guidelines_EQT_Discretionary.pdf http://www.eqt.com.au/philanthropy/trusts.asp 03 8623 5379	31 July 2007	\$7M in pool of all categories	“Preservation of natural flora and fauna or the preservation of our natural heritage” is one category	• Affiliates
Alfred Felton Bequest – ANZ Charitable Trusts	1800 808 910 http://www.anz.com.au/aus/fin/Trustees/guNamed.asp#Felton	<i>31 Mar. 2007</i> <i>1 Sept 2007</i>	Various	Primary focus on physical and emotional health of women and children	◆ Walking programs
Hewlett-Packard Grants	By mail to: The Philanthropy Coordinator Hewlett-Packard Australia Ltd 3 Richardson Place North Ryde NSW 2113 http://hp.com.au/hpinfo/philanthropy.asp	ongoing	Mainly in-kind	Grants of computer products and systems to support education	◆ Affiliates ◆ Schools ?
IBM On Demand Community	http://www-8.ibm.com/ibm/au/community/on_demand.html	ongoing	In kind and labour	IBM fosters volunteerism among its workforce and retiree population. Will provide support if have a	◆ Affiliates

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	Applications are an IBM internal process			member in community group	
Junior Landcare Grants Program - Mitre 10, Bi-Lo, Australia Post and Landcare	http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=6 1800 151 105 9662 9977 Rebecca Millard	23 Febr. 2007 18 May 2007 3 Aug 2007 19 Oct 2007	Av. \$500 from a total pool of \$200,000	for schools and youth groups wishing to participate in environmental projects	◆ could be used by affiliates ◆ Schools
Junior Watercare Grants Program – Melbourne Water	http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=6 1800 151 105 Rebecca Millard	3 Aug 2007	Max. \$2,000	for schools and youth groups wishing to participate in river health projects – includes water quality, signage, reduce litter.	◆ could be used by affiliates ◆ Schools
Mercy Foundation - Environment Grants for Schools	http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au/pf_applying.htm#time John Dacey (Grants Off) projects@mercyfoundation.com.au or (02) 9699 8726 http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au/seg.htm	15 March 2007 <i>1 Sept. 2007</i>	\$1,000 Max.	For environment rehabilitation and education	◆ EV affiliates ◆ Schools
Microsoft - Unlimited Potential Software Donations	12 30 58 http://www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizen	ongoing	Not cash - Gives Microsoft software	Group needs to use the facility to provide IT training for under served individuals	◆ EV affiliates

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	ship/citizenship/giving/programs/up/grants.msp			(eg volunteers) – public access	
The Mullum Trust	Ms Simone Mitchell 9208 7000 simitchell@deloitte.com.au	ongoing	\$100 - \$10,000 from a pool of \$40,000	‘to support and engender projects that have a significant, ongoing or catalytic environmental outcomes’	◆ affiliates
Operation Backyard – Westpac with Landcare	http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=7 (02) 9412 1040	Ongoing	Av. \$3,500	To help complete environmental projects in local communities – funding and labour	◆ Local affiliates
Our Community	www.ourcommunity.com.au	Ongoing	Various	This website contains free information on improving the performance of boards, advice on fundraising, a policy bank of pre-prepared policies covering issues such as sponsorship and fundraising etc. There is provision to list ourselves for the purposes of receiving donations.	◆
Project AWARE Foundation Grants	http://www.projectaware.org/americas/english/grants.asp info@projectaware.com	15 Mar 2007 15 June 2007 15 Sept 2007	Max. \$2,500	‘To conserve and preserve the aquatic environment and its resources’ – includes grass roots programs and public education	◆ Affiliates

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	au	15 Dec 2007			
RACV Foundation Grants	http://www.racv.com.au/ http://www.racv.com.au/wps/wcm/resources/file/e7fe202abb655b/2007%20guidelines.pdf Executive Off, RACV Foundation 9944 8706	4 May 2007 2 Nov 2007	Max \$5,000 Av. \$4,000	'Conservation, Environment and Heritage' is one of 6 categories	◆ Affiliates
Reichstein Foundation	http://www.reichstein.org.au/ info@reichstein.org.au (03) 9650 4400	Ongoing	Max. \$20,000	Social justice, advocacy, community education	◆ Innovative approaches and issues ◆ Land use issues ?
Renewable Energy Support Fund – Sustainability Victoria	info@sustainability.vic.gov.au (03) 8626 8700	Ongoing	Up to 20% of capital cost	To fund and facilitate innovative renewable energy projects that contribute to reducing Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions.	◆ Affiliates
R E Ross Trust	9690 6255 information@rosstrust.org.au http://www.rosstrust.org.au/	ongoing	Median about \$10K no max or min	Includes 'environmental needs and problems'	◆ Affiliates ◆ Healthy Rivers
Arthur B Schultz Foundation	http://www.absfoundation.org/guide.html http://www.absfoundation.org/	ongoing	Various amounts	four objectives – one is 'promoting healthy wildland ecosystems and wildlife habitat, including supporting	• Affiliates

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	info@absfoundation.org			research and advocacy'	
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust	9662 1951 www.hmstrust.org.au http://www.hmstrust.org.au/apply.htm Mr Darvell M. Hutchinson	31 Jan 2007 30 April 2007 30 Sept 2007	\$500 to \$250K \$3M pa in total	Environment is one category	• Affiliates
State Trustees Grants Program (Elizabeth Kucera Memorial Foundation)	http://www.statetrustees.com.au/index.cfm?pageID=168&pageREF=69& 9667 6444	31 Aug 2007 (usually)	\$500-\$5,000 from a pool of \$40,000	projects that directly support the elderly and the disabled, and enabled them to become more integrated with their community.	◆ Elderly and disabled mobility projects
Telstra's Kids Fund	http://202.12.135.148/dir148/tfweb.nsf/webdocs/TK~ApplicationGuidelines?opendocument 1800 208 378	28 Sep. 2007 March 2008 June 2008	\$1,200 max	funds organisations and activities that the “ <u>children</u> ” of Telstra employees are involved in – environment, education, sport and recreation are some of these	◆ Affiliates
Ray and Joyce Uebergang Foundation	Donald Aitken Tait Taylor lawyers 03 5560 2124	10 Mar 2007 10 June 2007 10 Sept 2007 10 Dec 2007	\$500 to \$5,000 Pool of \$100,000	Includes 'public scientific'	• Affiliates
Westpac / Landcare – Operation Backyard	David Hehir david@landcareaustralia.com.au	<i>Ongoing</i>	Av. \$3,500 Max. 50% of the cost of the	To help provide both volunteer labour and financial resources to support the	◆ Affiliates

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	(02) 9662 9977		environmental materials	successful completion of environmental projects in local communities.	
Norman Wettenhall Foundation Grants	admin@nwf.org.au (03) 9650 3188 Ms Therese Reidy http://www.nwf.org.au/guidelines.html	<i>30 Mar 2007</i> <i>29 June 2007</i> 28 Sept 2007 <i>29 Dec 2007</i>	Max. \$10,000	research, education and recording of all aspects of the natural living environment	◆ Affiliates

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**LIST OF FUNDING SCHEMES FOR
AUSTRALIAN COMPETITIVE GRANTS REGISTER (ACGR)
Updated: 14 August 2008**

Explanatory note: this list has also been modified by the Biosphere Research Committee.

Commonwealth Schemes (by portfolio)

Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry - Australia

- Cotton R&D Corporation Research Grants
- Dairy R&D Corporation Competitive Grants
- Fisheries R&D Corporation
- Forest and Wood Products R&D Corporation
- Grains R&D Corporation
- Grape and Wine R&D Corporation Competitive Grants Scheme
- Horticultural R&D Corporation
- Land and Water Resources R&D Corporation
- Meat and Livestock Australia Research Program
- Pig R&D Corporation
- Regional Catchment Investment Plans
- Rural Industries R&D Corporation
- Sugar R&D Corporation
- Tobacco R&D Council

Attorney-General's

- Criminology Research Fund

Australian Greenhouse Office

- Renewable Energy Commercialisation Program

Defence

- Army History Research Grants Scheme

Education, Science and Training

- Australian Research Council
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies - Research Grants
- Australian National Training Authority - VET Research Centres
- Australian Research Council
 - Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme
 - International Researcher Exchange (IREX) Scheme
 - Key Centres for Teaching & Research
 - Large Research Grants Scheme
 - Research Fellowships Scheme
 - Special Research Centres
 - Strategic Partnerships with Industry - Research and Training (SPIRT) Scheme
- Children's Literacy National Projects (CLP)
- Grants for National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies Project Programme – Strategic Research Projects Only
- Monash University – Joint Faculty of Arts/Faculty of Information Technology Small Grants Scheme 2005 – upto \$10,000
- Monash University – Small Grants Scheme, Faculty of Education

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National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd (NCVER)
- National Managed Vocational Education and Training Research and Evaluation Program
Small Research Grants Scheme

Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) Research Grant Scheme (Worksafe Australia)

Environment and Heritage

Australian Antarctic Science Grants
Australian Biological Resources Study Participatory Program
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Augmentative Reef Research Grant Scheme

Foreign Affairs and Trade

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) – R&D Development Projects

Health and Aged Care

Cochrane Collaborative Groups' Funding Scheme
Commonwealth AIDS Research Grants (CARG)
- CARG Project Grants
- CARG Fellowships
- CARG National Centres in HIV Research
- CARG Collaborating Centres to the National Centres in HIV Research
- ANCAHRD Commissioned Research Grants
General Practice Evaluation Program (GPEP)
National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF)
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
- Project Grants
- Program, Unit, Centre and Institute Grants
- Training Fellows
- Health Research Partnerships
- Program in Medical Genomics
- Health and Economics Research Program
- Translation Grants In Injury
- Youth Suicide Prevention
- National Illicit Drugs Strategy
 - Treatment of Drug Dependencies
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Use
 - General National Illicit Drugs Strategy Research
- Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Energy Research
- Centre for Clinical Excellence in Hospital Based Research
- Hepatitis C Research
- Otitis Media in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Diabetes and Related Disorders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Mental Health – Effect of Early Psychosis Intervention Programs
- Ageing Research
- Systems of Care for Chronic Disease
- Palliative Care
Research into Drug Abuse Program (RIDAP)

Industry, Science and Resources

AusIndustry:
- *R&D Start* Program Grants for Graduate-based R&D Projects

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- *R&D Start* Grants for Joint Applications

Veterans' Affairs

Health and Medical Research Grants

Non-Commonwealth Schemes

ANZ Trustees Philanthropy Partners - Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment Grants.

Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP)

Australian Dental Research Foundation Grants

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) Research Funding Scheme

Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE) Grants (direct grants)

Australian Landscape Trust

Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists – Research Funding Scheme

Australian Kidney Foundation - Project Grants

Australian Rotary Health Research Fund

CARDio VAScular LIPid Research Grants, Parke Davis/Pfizer

The Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundations

Dust Disease Board Research Grants Scheme

Financial Markets Foundation for Children Grants

Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation

- Grants-in-aid

- Overseas Research Fellowships

- Project Grants

- Research Training Fellowships in Otorhinolaryngology

- Senior/Principal Research Fellowships

John T Reid Charitable Trust ** (rec. by Clive Fraser – August 2008)

Joint Coal Board Health and Safety Trust

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Grants

MBF Health Research Awards – Research Project Grants

McGuire Family Interest

Myer Foundation

National Breast Cancer Foundation - Kathleen Cunningham Research Grants

National Heart Foundation of Australia

- Grants-In-Aid for Research (Biomedical and Education/Health Promotion)

- Postdoctoral Fellowships

National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Australia - Projects Grants and Postdoctoral Fellowships

Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA)

Pharmacy Guild of Australia - Investigator Initiated Projects

Port Phillip and Westernport CMA calendar

Pratt Foundation

Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation

- Senior Medical Research Fellowships

- Clinical Investigatorships

Trust for Nature

Williamson Foundation

Last updated: 14 August 2008

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For info	YES
Decision	

ITEM 12: Any Other Business

ITEM 13: Next meetings

Proposed meeting dates for 2009 are:

Friday 27 March	9.00 am – 11.00 am
Friday 26 June	9.00 am – 11.00 am
Friday 25 September	9.00 am – 11.00 am
Friday 27 November	9.00 am – 11.00 am

Meeting venues are to be determined.

NB: Please note that any commitments made for the first six months of 2009 may be subject to change due to the CRCSI new bid process underway during this time.