

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**. When you join your community in supporting the Biosphere Foundation, you will be helping to run programs that will:

- Enhance community stewardship for the wonderful assets of our Biosphere.
- Conserve biological diversity and maintain healthy ecosystems in our region, including the Western Port Ramsar site.
- Generate and share knowledge on how to manage natural resources in a sustainable way, given the challenges associated with urban growth, industrialisation and climate change.



- Improve collaboration among governments, business and industry, research and educational institutions, and the community to develop innovative, sustainable ways of living and doing business.
- Build markets for sustainable local products and showcase sustainable production to the world.
- Tap into the knowledge and experience of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves to benefit our region.

Become a supporter of your UNESCO Biosphere today

I wish to make a **tax-deductible donation** of \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other amount \$

Cheque/money order enclosed or Debit/credit card below

Name: Address:

..... City: State: Postcode:

Ph: Email:

Credit card details: Visa or MasterCard (circle) /..... /..... /.....

Name on card: Expiry date: /

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

Return 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 info@biosphere.org.au www.biosphere.org.au

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

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MORNINGTON PENINSULA & WESTERN PORT
BIOSPHERE RESERVE FOUNDATION

Keeping our special place special



The Mornington Peninsula and Western Port region is so special that the United Nations proclaimed it one of the world's 547 biosphere reserves under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program.

To put this into perspective, other UNESCO biosphere reserves in Australia include Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park and Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Our Biosphere is perhaps one of the most special in the world because of its rich fusion of ecological, social and economic values and challenges.

The Biosphere gives us the chance to **protect this special place for our children**.

It is also a **UNESCO living laboratory** for developing better solutions to adapt to a changing world.

We need your help to keep this place special. Donations are tax-deductible.

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 complementary 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.

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 support the Biosphere Foundation with a tax-deductible gift?

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 and Short-tailed Shearwater.

- 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.

- 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.”

We are different!

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

We are **uniquely placed** to work with government, business and industry, research and educational institutions, and the community to overcome the challenges of the region and protect its assets.



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 successful 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, giving our region access to knowledge from living laboratories around the globe. 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.

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

We are **independent** and deliver a carefully developed program of research, education, community engagement, partnerships and on-ground activities.

All this is backed with knowledge and experience drawn from UNESCO's **global network** of living laboratories.