



WCB News

MARCH 2017

Budj Bim cultural tour

Starting with an informative drive along the wind farms and aquaculture sites of the far south-west coast, our March Board meeting featured a visit to the fascinating Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. We were lucky to have Gunditjmara elder Aunty Eileen Alberts take us on a tour of the Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area where we learnt about Gunditjmara culture and country. To book a tour, visit budjibimtours.com.



WCB and Aunty Eileen, Budj Bim tour

New Marine and Coastal Act

A Consultation Summary report has been developed to provide an overview of the feedback received on the *Marine and Coastal Act Consultation Paper* – to view the report, visit delwp.vic.gov.au/marine-coastal-act.

The WCB Chair recently attended a Ministerial Roundtable hosted by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio, where key stakeholders discussed the new Marine and Coastal Act.

New statewide coastal protection assets program

The WCB was pleased to help host the Warrnambool and Torquay information sessions for the \$15 million *Coastal protection assets program*, designed to support the upgrade of public seawalls, revetments and groynes. This DELWP-led program is one of three components of the \$21.4 million *Protection of Victoria's iconic beaches and coastline program* announced in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget.

A key aim of the program is to develop a new framework for identifying the highest priority infrastructure protection projects and to establish a database to inform condition and risk assessment for the asset portfolio that supports long-term planning and investment. We heard many examples of local projects that would benefit from this program, and gathered some great feedback from stakeholders that will now help inform the program guidelines.

Have your say on the Belfast Coastal Reserve

Stakeholder and community engagement to support the development of a Coastal Management Plan for the Belfast Coastal Reserve is well underway. To have your say, visit parks.vic.gov.au/belfastcoast.

Adapting to climate change on our coasts

Visit climatechange.vic.gov.au to read about the new Climate Change Act and other key energy and climate change initiatives including Victoria's Climate Change Framework and Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020.

Summer by the Sea

Congratulations to the local volunteers and providers that helped deliver a successful 2017 Summer by the Sea program. They should be proud of the contribution they have made to broadening understanding of Victoria's marine and coastal environments.

Our next Board meeting will be held on 19 May, with the [Victorian Coastal Council](http://www.vic.gov.au/vic-coastal-council) (VCC) as our special guests.

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Email: wcb.info@delwp.vic.gov.au | Phone: (03) 5226 4008