

Western Port Seagrass Partnership Ltd

Annual Report Highlights

2007/2008



Vision:

The environment of Western Port and its catchment shall be protected and restored to a state that can sustain a healthy, diverse and naturally productive ecosystem for future generations to enjoy.

Key Strategies:

- Promoting Western Port as a valued place worth protecting.
- Highlighting the challenges to focus improvement efforts.
- Promoting research to improve ecosystem understanding and management effectiveness.
- Putting theory into practice by supporting on ground projects.
- Building partnerships to ensure wide spread, cooperative and effective protection efforts.
- Building community ownership by building awareness and direct involvement.

Liaison:

The board meets throughout the region and with key stakeholders to exchange briefings, promote awareness, and build good will and cooperation.

Some Highlights:



DVD Project:

This major project, sponsored by Esso, will facilitate better understanding and appreciation of the values of Western Port. The DVD currently being produced by WPSP Board member and media personality John Clarke, is expected to be completed and launched by 2009.



Coastal Erosion Alert:

The WPSP facilitates field visits to alert responsible bodies to the serious coastal erosion occurring along the northern coastline of Western port and to discuss possible remedies.

Seagrass Transplant Tests:

Monitoring of replanted seagrass plugs, with various doses of osmocote continues along the Coronet Bay Coast. But transplants will not be viable along the northern coastline until active erosion is controlled.



Mangrove Planting to Control Erosion:

Mangroves are being planted along the northern coastline of Western Port to help combat active erosion of the saltmarshes. Funding has been provided by the PP&W CMA and an EP Act Alternative Sentencing Decision by the Magistrates' Court .



Engaging the Community:

Dr Tim Ealey (Dr Mangrove) continues to expand school mangrove growing and planting projects as part of the WPSP Community engagement program.



Directors:

Roger James – Chairman/Treasurer
Doug Newton – Secretary
John Barnard
Peter Attwill (resigned)
John Clarke
Tim Ealey
Helen Corney
Michael Looker
Ian Stevenson
John Swan
Nick Wimbush

Meetings:

13/8/07	Box Hill
8/10/07	Lang Lang
3/12/07	Camberwell
11/2/08	Camberwell
14/4/08	Lang Lang
4/6/08	Hastings

Funding:

Income = \$88,889
Expenditure = \$46,342
The surplus for the year was \$42,547
Key funders for this year:
PP&W CMA / Community Coastcare
Magistrates' Court
Public Fund

Major Submissions:

Port of Hastings Strategy
State of WP Research
Project Progress Reports

New Web Site Commissioned:

WWW.Seagrass.com.au

The WPSP has commissioned Eskimo Productions to develop a new and exciting web site that aims to be the prime source of information about Western Port and its environment. The site is expected to be launched in 2009 in conjunction with the Western Port DVD.

EPA Efforts Give WPSP Project A Big Boost:

A successful EPA prosecution of a company for water pollution in Western Port and their recommendation to the Magistrates' court that a WPSP Project be funded under alternative sentencing provisions of the EP Act, has resulted in funding of \$90,000 for our mangrove planting efforts along the northern coast of Western Port.

A subsequent challenge to an ATO decision to charge GST on this grant was successful thanks to the kind assistance of J Daryl Davies QC.