

A sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The HPNL logo is overlaid on the left side of the image.

HPNL

HEALESVILLE / PHILLIP ISLAND
NATURE LINK

Newsletter Late Autumn / Early Winter 2021

MAY
25

HPNL HEALESVILLE / PHILLIP ISLAND
NATURE LINK *From the Presidents' desk*



“We acknowledge the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to their Elders past, present and emerging.”

Just seeing the first morning frosts of the season this past week, our yearly cycle is moving on and winter is on its way but still beautiful days around Western Port Bay and hinterlands.

This is in stark contrast to images presented at the Save Western Port Woodlands meeting at Corinella last Saturday. Sand mines have emerged as a huge threat to native habitats, native species, our beautiful landscape and lifestyle.

Multiple speakers, myself included, spoke passionately to the 131 attendees about the need to preserve and enhance corridors for native wildlife while urban development happens in a sympathetic way.

Speakers presented evidence that there is more than enough sand resources in existing mines and from already degraded areas to make damaging of wildlife corridors and high quality native vegetation unnecessary.

Water table damage, trucks noise and harm to the local tourist industry were all raised. Please, check out the website and sign the petition. [LINK](#)

EXISTING

INTEREST AREAS

French Island



***Decisions are happening now
and it's important that we act!***

As you will see in another of Marlene's bumper newsletters we have been making progress on a number of fronts, foremost of which is the Tooradin Research/Community/Environment Centre.

The Monash Team presented a vision for a Great Swamp Regenerative Park across the north Western Port landscape in which any development would happen in sympathy with the flood prone nature of the landscape.

High tech vision was used to show the effect of possible sea level rise and ways of mitigating damage caused by the increased likelihood of flooding and ways of managing the change.

The proposal for the Centre was to adapt the existing hall while doing an outdoor facility near the waterfront which would interrelate with facilities in the hall. The audience was supportive of the concept and looking forward to seeing the final report.

Work on the Tooradin video is nearly completed and plantings continue along Cardinia Creek. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in these projects.

Best regards,

Pat Macwhirter



**Join us on our exciting quest!
E-meet wonderful people!
Be inspired!**

**You can help save wildlife habitat, plant, animal and
marine life ... by helping us create nature links for you,
your children and future generations to enjoy**

HPNL membership

\$10 for individuals

\$25 for organisations

Contact:

Dr Pat Macwhirter

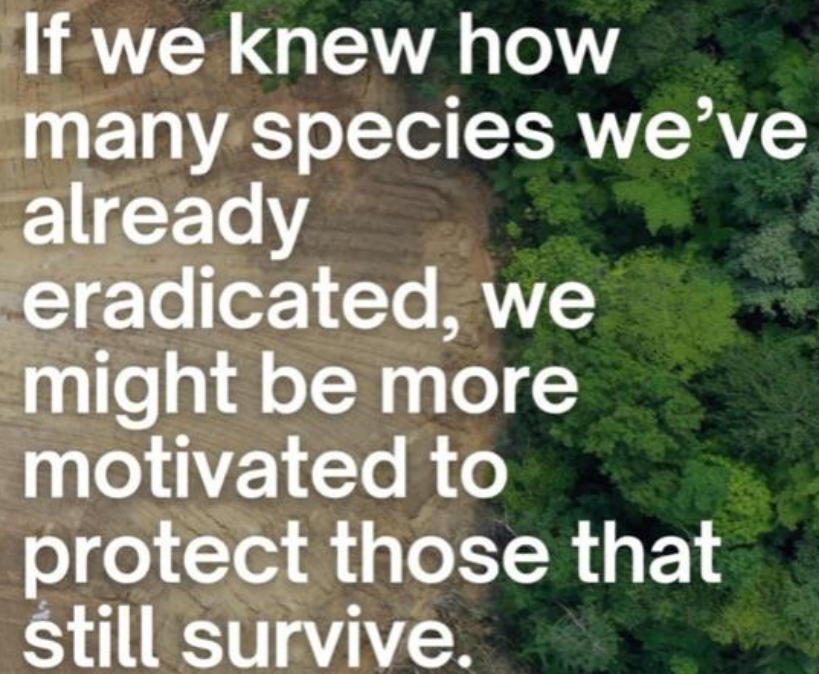
President

patvet@bigpond.com



APR Earth Day
22



An aerial photograph showing a stark contrast between a cleared, brown, and eroded area on the left and a dense, vibrant green forest on the right. The text is overlaid on the cleared area.

**If we knew how
many species we've
already
eradicated, we
might be more
motivated to
protect those that
still survive.**

EARTH DAY 2021

**APR
25**

ANZAC Day Anthony Byrne MP, Pearceedale dawn service



Cranbourne RSL



HPNL Inc is a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature [LINK](#)



GARN
MEMBER

APR
28

HPNL

HEALESVILLE / PHILLIP ISLAND
NATURE LINK

Zoom meeting

Guest speaker: Dr Alessandro Pelizzon

Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature
Executive Committee Member

Senior Lecturer School of Law and Justice
Southern Cross University

Alessandro completed his LLB/LLM at the University of Turin in Italy, specializing in comparative law and legal anthropology with a field research project conducted in the Andes.

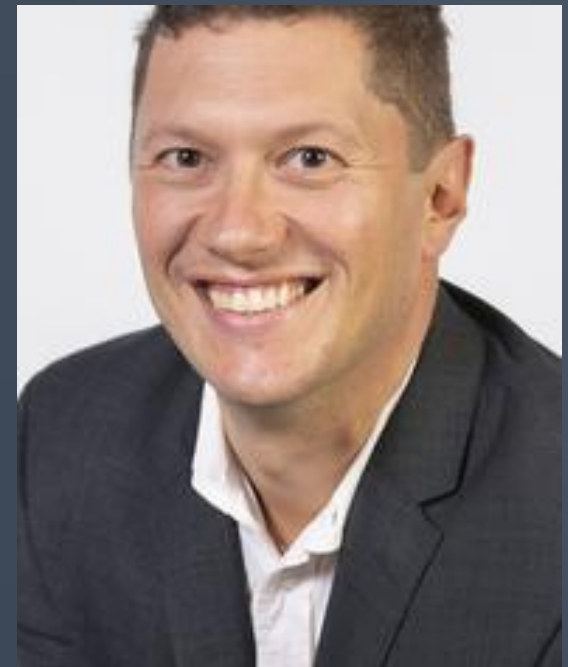
His Doctoral research, conducted at the University of Wollongong, focused on native title and legal pluralism.


Alessandro has been exploring the emerging discourse on rights of nature, *Wild Law* and *Earth Jurisprudence* since its inception, has organised a number of events in Australia. His particular focus is on the intersection between this emerging discourse and different legal ontologies.

He is a founding member of the *Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature* and of the *Australian Earth Laws Alliance*.

He has been a moderator at the *UN General Assembly Dialogue on the Harmony with Nature*, and he is an expert member of the UN Harmony with Nature programme.

Alessandro's main areas of research are legal anthropology, legal theory, comparative law, ecological jurisprudence, sovereignty, and Indigenous rights.



A man with short dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is speaking in a library. He has his hands raised in a gesture. The background is filled with bookshelves.

Alessandro explains the concept of ecological jurisprudence [LINK](#)
Teaching law for the 21st century [LINK](#)

Earth jurisprudence is a philosophy of law and human governance that is based on the fact that humans are only one part of a wider community of beings - and that the welfare of each member of that community is dependent on the welfare of the Earth as a whole.

It states that human societies will only be viable and flourish if they regulate themselves as part of this wider Earth community and do so in a way that is consistent with the fundamental laws or principles that govern how the universe functions - which is **the Great Jurisprudence**.

Earth jurisprudence seeks to expand our understanding of the relevance of governance beyond humanity to the whole Earth community,

it is Earth-centric rather than anthropocentric.

Elements include:

- Recognition that any Earth jurisprudence exists within a wider context that shapes it and influences how it functions;
- Recognition that the universe is the source of the fundamental 'Earth rights' of all members of the Earth community, rather than some part of the human governance system and accordingly these rights cannot be validly circumscribed or abrogated by human jurisprudence;
- A means of recognising the roles and 'rights' of non-human members of the Earth community and of restraining humans from unjustifiably preventing them fulfilling those roles;
- A concern for reciprocity and the maintenance of a dynamic equilibrium between all the members of the Earth community determined by what is best for the system as a whole (Earth justice); and
- An approach to condoning or disapproving human conduct on the basis of whether or not the conduct strengthens or weakens the bonds that constitute the Earth community.

Australia has a very active Earth jurisprudence and 'wild law' movement. The Australian Earth Laws Alliance is the leading organisation in Australia promoting Earth laws and wild law. For information about their projects, members, conferences and events, please visit their website [LINK](#)

**APR
30**

Workshop #3, Farms & Tooradin site visits

MONASH UNIVERSITY URBAN LAB

HPNL HEALESVILLE / PHILLIP ISLAND
NATURE LINK

- 9.45 - 10.45 Mary Cole, Garfield
- 11.00 - 12.00 David Young, Cardinia
- 12.00 - 1.00 Site for proposed Research Centre in Tooradin
- 1.00 - 1.45 Maurie Caffra, Koo Wee Rup

Monash Urban Lab Workshop #3 Farm and Tooradin site visit - Participants

Dr Mary Cole: Agpath Lab | Vice President, HPNL Committee [LINK](#)

David Young: Farmer | Former Councillor Cardinia Shire | Westernport Biosphere [LINK](#)

Maurie Caffre: Organic farm, Koo Wee Rup

Catherine Murphy: Monash Art, Design, Architecture | Urban Lab [LINK](#)

Prof Nigel Betram: Monash Art, Design, Architecture | Urban Lab [LINK](#)

Louise Wright: Architect | architecture that is connected to a local physical environment [LINK](#)

Rutger Pasman: CHORD studio | Monash Urban Lab [LINK](#)

Gyöngyvér Engloner: REALMstudios | Water, Architecture, Ethnography, Deep history [LINK](#)

David Mason: Graduate Architect | NMBW Architecture Studio [LINK](#)

Dr Peter Breen: CRC for Water Sensitive Cities/E2Designlab | Development of water sensitive cities [LINK](#)

Marlene Hargreaves: EcoFuture | Marketing. HPNL Committee [LINK](#)

Farm visit #1: Dr Mary Cole: Agpath laboratory and farm Garfield
From left: David Mason, Nigel Bertram, Catherine Murphy, Mary Cole, Peter Breen.
Photo Marlene Hargreaves



Topographic map – Rutger locating the Great Swamp delta area



Australia Southern Ocean

Geological History
The Great Swamp delta is a young delta system, formed in the last 10,000 years. It is a result of the rapid sea level rise following the last ice age. The delta is a result of the rapid sea level rise following the last ice age. The delta is a result of the rapid sea level rise following the last ice age.

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Regenerative farming discussion - cost and soil health benefits of going chemical free

How great compost is made



The process of making compost tea in the vat



Farm visit #2: David Young farm, Cardinia





David explaining up to 30 flooding events on the farm per year



How well do the drains work ... ?





Happy being immersed in nature ... and sinking in to the bog underfoot

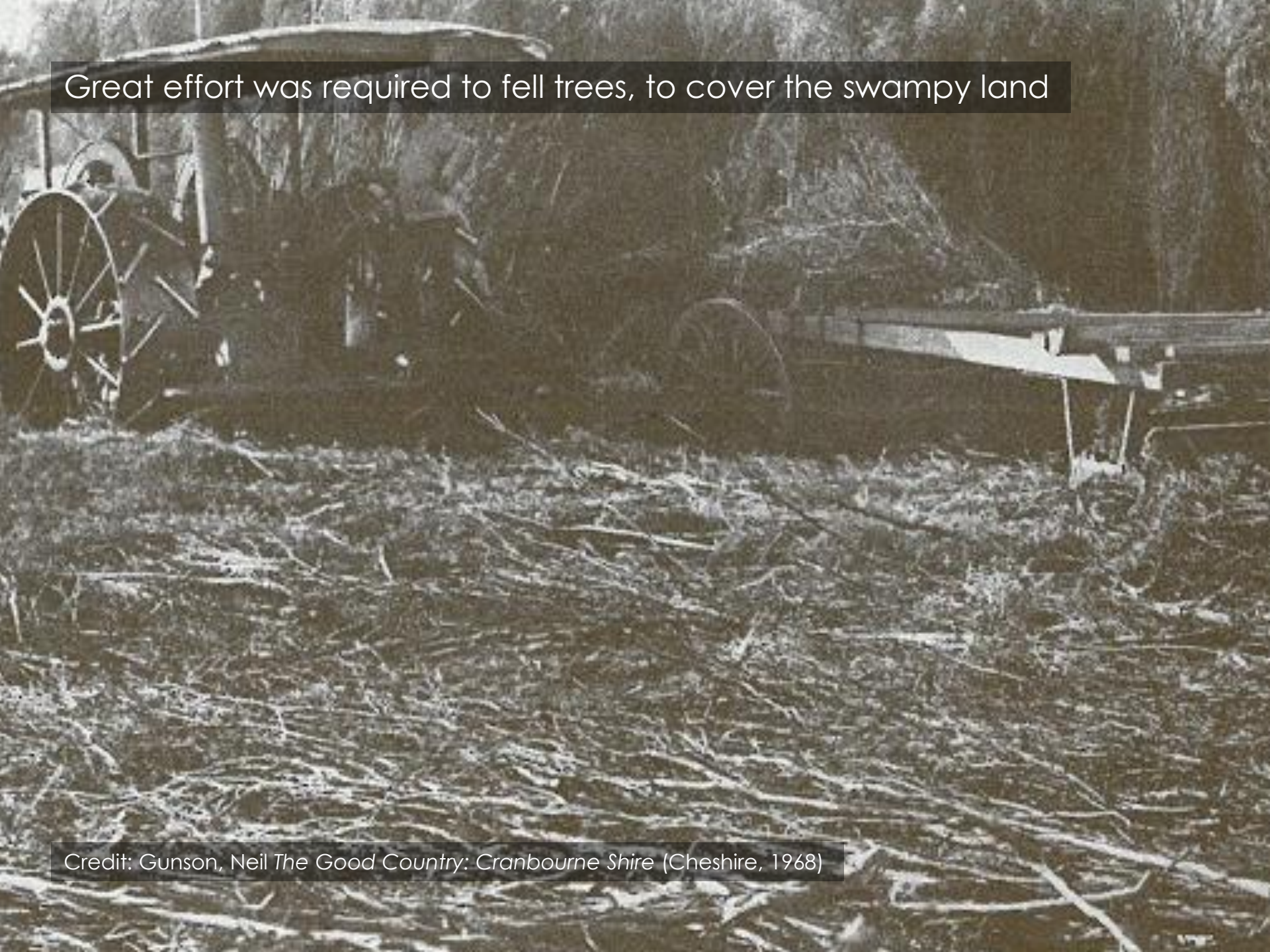


The group enjoyed the tranquil, magical atmosphere of the natural landscape - David speaking on the process of clearing the swamp c1886





Great effort was required to fell trees, to cover the swampy land



Credit: Gunson, Neil *The Good Country: Cranbourne Shire* (Cheshire, 1968)

Manual scrub cutting also employed



Credit: Illustrated Australian News of November 8, 1894

The Lubecker Steam Dredge was the first machine used on the long running project to drain the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp. Small scale works were undertaken by individual land owners starting in 1856. In 1875, landowners formed the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Drainage Committee and employed over 100 men to create a drain that would carry the water from the Cardinia and Toomuc Creeks to Western Port Bay . [LINK](#)



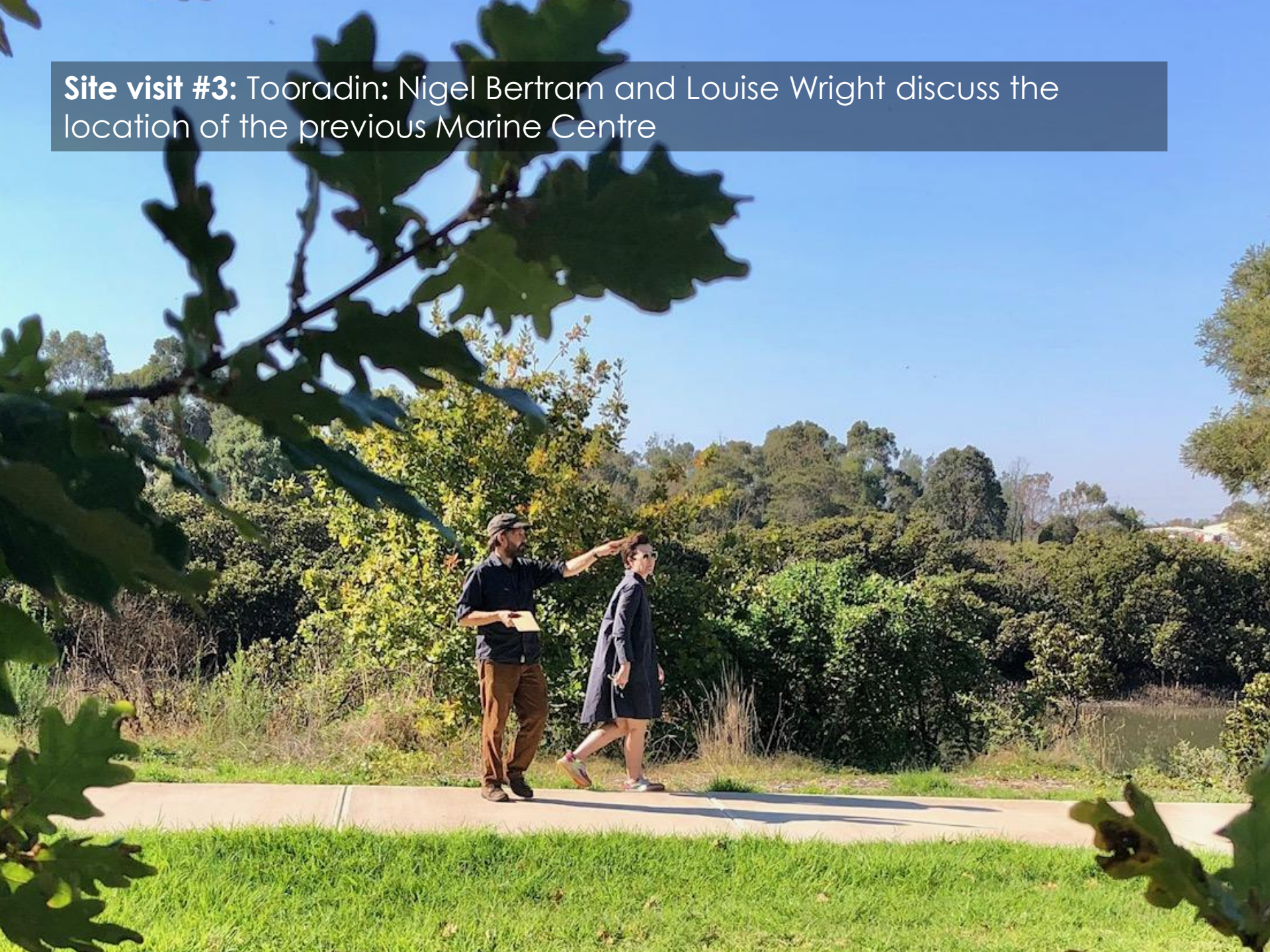
Channel excavation



Transversing the swamp: steam driven engine used to pull trolley with passengers.



Site visit #3: Tooradin: Nigel Bertram and Louise Wright discuss the location of the previous Marine Centre





View from Tooradin Hall to site of the old Marine Centre



Tooradin Hall



View from the peninsula back to the highway



Farm visit #4: Maurie Caffre organic farm Koo Wee Rup



Rutger and Maurie







APR Tidemaster trip to Barrilliar Island 30

Western Port, Victoria's second largest bay, is a biological treasure trove. Hidden behind the mangroves, its waters contain expansive intertidal mudflats, meadows of seagrass, deep channels and small rocky reefs on which an abundance of marine life flourish.

Juvenile fish find protection within the extensive seagrass beds, while adult fish and sharks feed on the small animals that live in the mud and seagrass beds. When the tides roll out, the extensive mudflats provide a wealth of food for waterbirds.

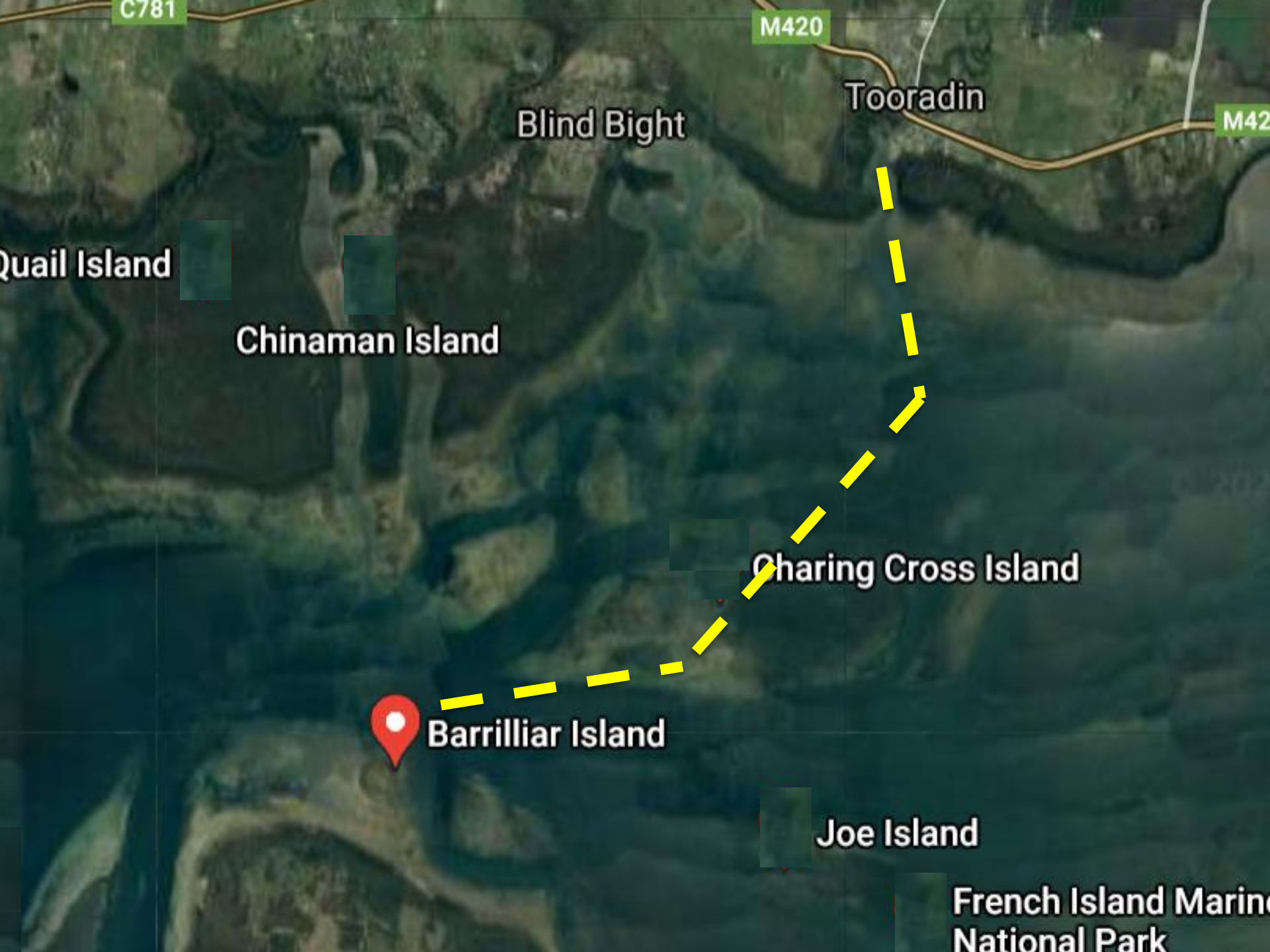
Western Port is recognised as one of the world's most valuable areas for international migratory water birds. Along with resident waders, many species of birds migrate from northern and central Asia to Western Port every year.

This rich and diverse marine environment is conserved in three new Marine National Parks. The serene waters of **Franklin Island Marine National Park**, in the north of the bay, preserve the connection between mangroves and mudflats that is so important for roosting water birds.

Churchill Island Marine National Park, in the centre, protects extensive seagrass beds that have largely disappeared elsewhere in the bay since the 1950's.

In the south, **Churchill Island Marine National Park** influenced in part by the nearby open coast, and hosts beds of the living fossils known as lamp shells or naupliopods. This ancient group of animals had thousands of species, but is now reduced to a few species worldwide.





C781

M420

M42

Tooradin

Blind Bight

Quail Island

Chinaman Island

Charing Cross Island

Barrilliar Island

Joe Island

French Island Marine
National Park

The adventure begins - pulling away from Tooradin's new jetty and floating pontoon - not quite high tide





Skipper Lindsay Mitchell provides commentary on the environmental significance of Western Port and International Ramsar protection on the area

Dolphin escort



Seal encounter



A small colony of Little Penguins often seen swimming in the area



Koalas have been reported swimming from Quail Island to Blind Bight



Credit: [LINK](#)

Barrilliar Island is a very small uninhabited island located 1km northwest of French Island. The island is named after Francis Barrilliar, who charted Western Port



Brian Hughes filming the trip for inclusion In the Healesville to Phillip Island Nature Link (HPNL) video presentation to Federal, State and local government.



Barrilliar Island is a sanctuary for bird life – nothing to fear here



Return journey - a magical Autumn day



Lindsay's personal service. "Part of our success is that everyone on board matters and that they all have a story".



Arriving back on high tide - Tooradin jetty and floating pontoon - now horizontal



May Save Western Port Woodlands Update

8

Public meeting

Corinella Hall

Saturday, May 22

2.30-4.30pm.

The meeting will include:

- Launch of the Save Western Port Woodlands short video (next page)
- Speakers from SPWP and allied groups
- A chance for the local community to express their views on the impacts of sand mining.

A state Government report has identified large parts of the coastal forest corridor between Lang Lang and Grantville as “Extractive Industry Interest Area”.

If approved, sand mining in these areas would take precedence over conservation of this crucial biolink, home to endangered species including the southern brown bandicoot and powerful owl.

It would also remove the right of communities, farmers and local government to object to sand mining in this area.

With the Government pushing a construction-led COVID recovery, time is running out to save Bass Coasts' last remnant coastal forest

A dense forest scene with tall, slender trees and a thick undergrowth of green ferns. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded woodland environment. The text 'SAVE WESTERN PORT WOODLANDS' is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

SAVE WESTERN PORT WOODLANDS

[VIDEO LINK](#)



GRANTVILLE GRASS TREE FOREST

May
9

Ross Wilkie and Pat Macwhirter planning the weeding and planting day around Tooradin foreshore.

Photo: Marlene Hargreaves



Weed Identification Guide

CITY OF CASEY
CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL
CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG



This Weed Identification Guide has been produced through the combined efforts of the City of Casey, Cardinia Shire Council and the City of Greater Dandenong.

This booklet assists with the identification of 90 of the worst environmental and agricultural weeds over the three Councils by providing coloured pictures of each species as well as information and control methods.

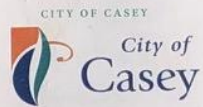


City of
Casey

CITY OF
GREATER
DANDENONG



CARDINIA



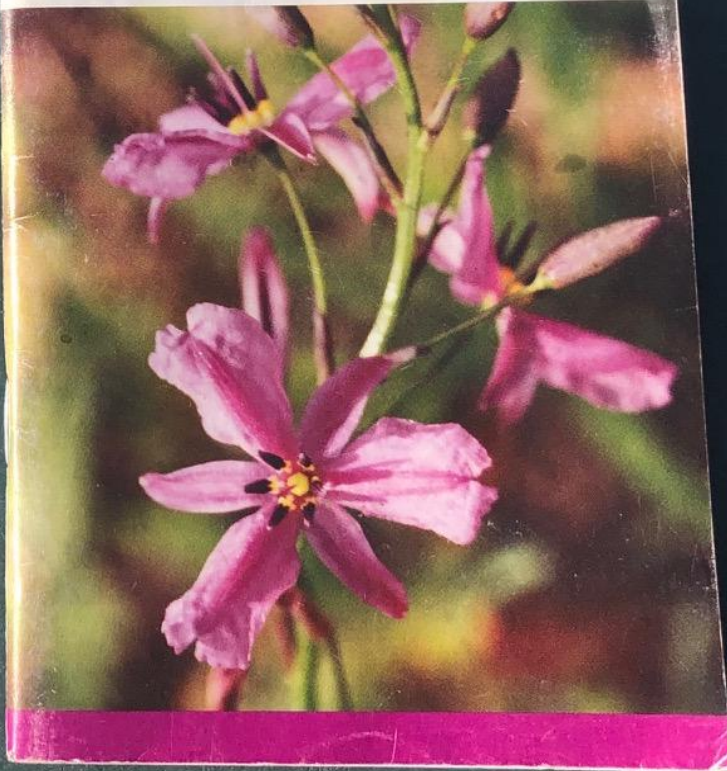
CITY OF CASEY

City of
Casey

CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

CARDINIA

Indigenous Plant Guide



May
16

Report from Workshop #4 for proposed Tooradin Centre

MONASH UNIVERSITY URBAN
LAB

HPNL HEALESVILLE / PHILLIP ISLAND
NATURE LINK

TOORADIN

RESEARCH • ENVIRONMENT • COMMUNITY
CENTRE

Discussion panel held at Tooradin Sports Club from 2-5pm



Monash Team, HPNL Committee and guest panellists

Catherine Murphy: Monash Art, Design, Architecture | Urban Lab [LINK](#)

Prof Nigel Betram: Monash Art, Design, Architecture | Urban Lab [LINK](#)

Louise Wright: Architect | architecture that is connected to a local physical environment [LINK](#)

Rutger Pasman: CHORD studio | Monash Urban Lab [LINK](#)

Dr Pat Macwhirter: Bird Vet Melbourne | President, HPNL Committee [LINK](#)

Susan Bendel: Friends of Leadbeater's Possum, Sue's Refuge Wildlife Sanctuary [LINK](#)

Ross Wilkie: Secretary Tooradin Foreshore Committee | Tooradin Old Jetty Café and Tearoom [LINK](#)

Marg Lenders: Treasurer Tooradin Foreshore Committee | Tooradin Air BnB Bed Breakfast [LINK](#)

Dr Jeff Yugovic and Cathy Yugovic: Botanist | Biosis Research [LINK](#)

Colin Butler: Former Mayor City of Casey | Senior Property Consultant, O'Brien Real Estate [LINK](#)

Lindsay Mitchell: Tooradin Foreshore Committee | Tidemaster Charters and Cruises [LINK](#)

Charles Kovess: Secretary Australian Industrial Hemp Alliance | Former CEO Koo Wee Rup Asparagus farm [LINK](#)

Marlene Hargreaves: EcoFuture | Marketing. HPNL Committee [LINK](#)



Monash Urban Lab
In partnership with HPNL Inc.

**Future scenarios for the ecological regeneration of
the coastal inlet reserves of Tooradin, the
Koo Wee Rup Swamp and the Cardinia Catchment**

Community Presentation – 16th May, 2021

The Great Swamp Regenerative Park

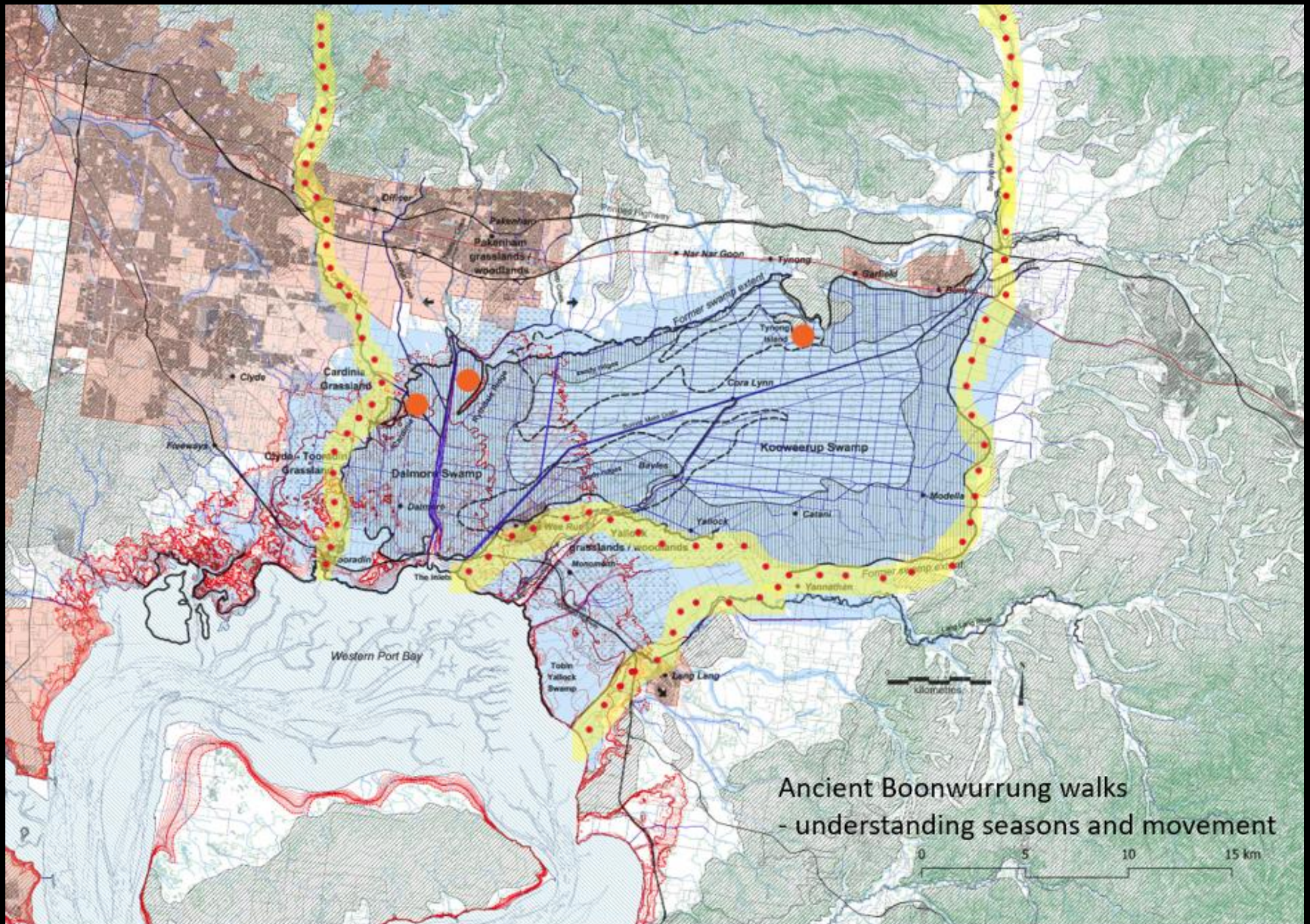
> a 200 year plan

Regenerative Nature - biodiversity action + research

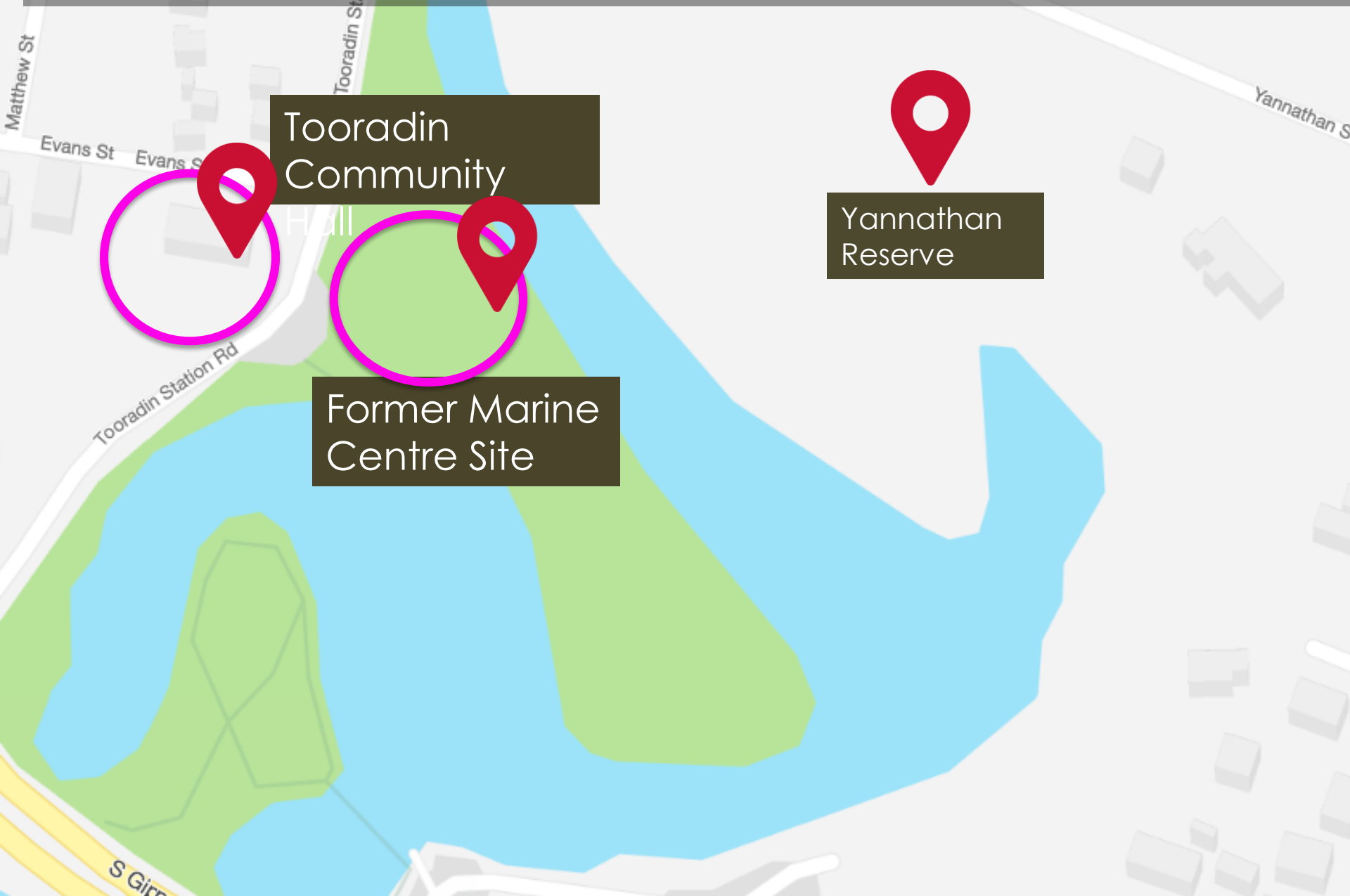
Regenerative Knowledge - joint management + custodianship

Regenerative Agriculture - intensive production + innovation

Regenerative Urbanism - local knowledge + community



Suggested location of the proposed Tooradin Research Environment Community Centre, incorporating refurbishment of the Tooradin Hall and constructing new buildings on the former Marine Centre site



Tooradin
Community
Hall

Former Marine
Centre Site

Yannathan
Reserve

Charles Kovess: Secretary Australia Industrial Hemp Alliance
Hemp is the future ... for agriculture, architecture, food and medicinal industries





Hemp

makes more fuel, fiber, food and medicine than any other plant, and it was the first crop sown, over 12,000 years ago. An acre of hemp produces 300 gallons of oil, 3 tons of protein, and 30 tons of fiber a year.



Hempcrete
Non-flammable
No heating or cooling required
Fast growing, renewable resource





MAY
17

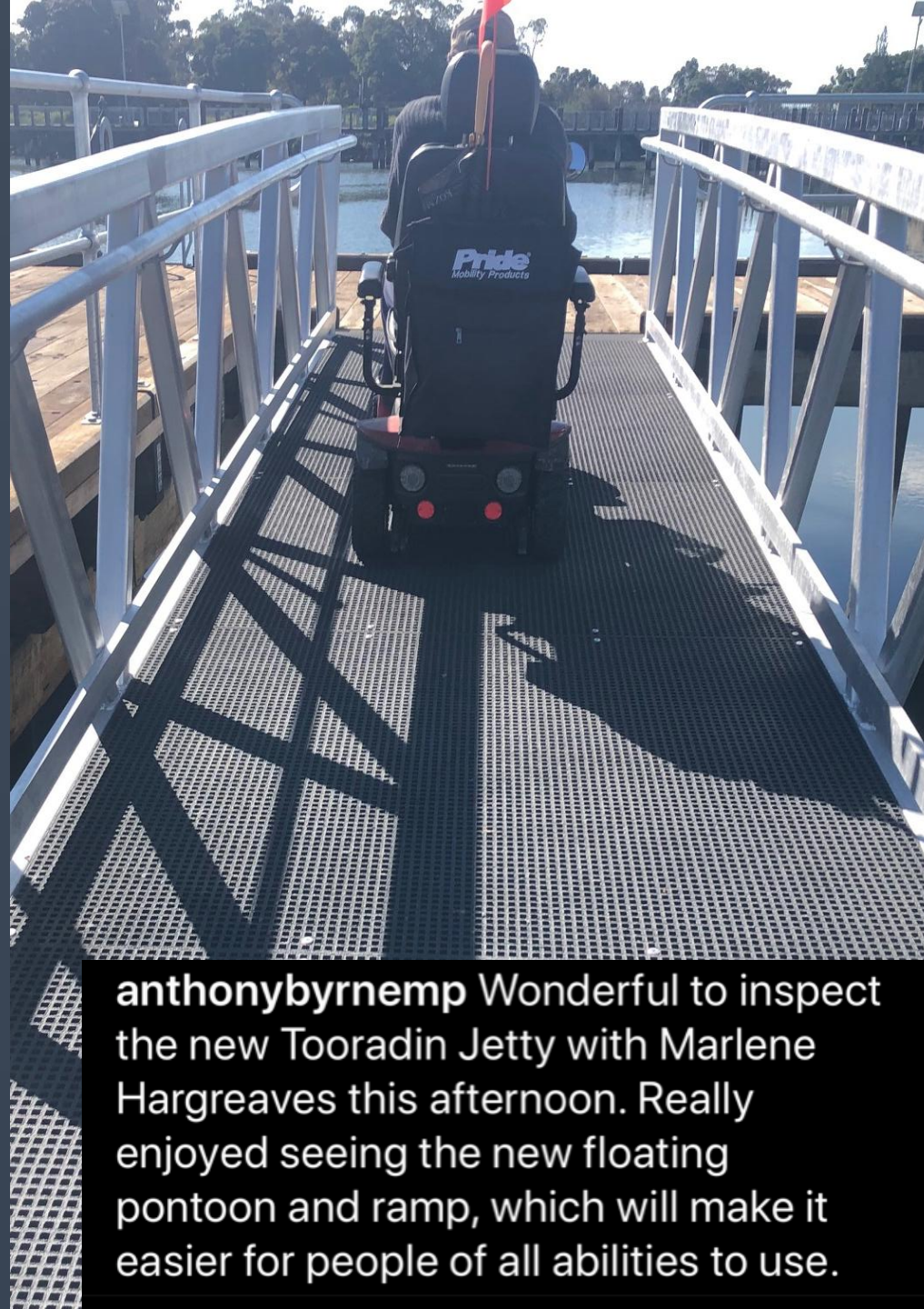
Anthony Byrne MP assisted with the funding to build the new jetty and floating pontoon in Tooradin. He visits to inspect the wonderful new amenity for Tooradin community and tourists.





**NEW
POST!**

Inspecting Tooradin Jetty



anthonybyrnemp Wonderful to inspect the new Tooradin Jetty with Marlene Hargreaves this afternoon. Really enjoyed seeing the new floating pontoon and ramp, which will make it easier for people of all abilities to use.



Rob Lord enjoying direct access to the waterway - how's the serenity ... !





Future parking solution? Fully automated parking system



Credit: Glamray Solutions

Future parking solution? Fully automated parking system



Credit: HBC Company

Artwork titled: Clans Water Connection



Artist: Melissa McDevitt-Weston Boon Wurrung Traditional Owner.
Read about Melissa's art in Westernport Water's Innovate Reconciliation
Action Plan [LINK](#)

Congratulations Melissa - your artwork now adorns the WPW fleet!



Acknowledgement

Westernport Water acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as First Nations People and that the land, sea and water are of spiritual, cultural and economic importance. We recognise that we provide services on the traditional lands of the Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation. The Bunurong Peoples have managed the resources on Millowl for thousands of years. We acknowledge them and their continued connection to this place, as we go about managing the water resources today.

The Bunurong People

The Bunurong are Aboriginal People of the Kulin Nation, who occupy South-Central Victoria, from the east of Port Phillip Bay, Western Port, Cape Liptrap and surrounding areas. The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council notes that there are many different spellings for Bunurong, some common alternative spellings include Boonwurrung, Boon wurrung, Bunwurrung, Boon Wurrung, and Boonoorong.

About Reconciliation

Water Corporations manage a resource that was considered by Aboriginal people as one of the most important and sacred – water. We all need water to survive, and the protection and management of our waterways is just one example of where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and businesses need to work in partnership.

What is Reconciliation?

Reconciliation is about building better relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

MAY
20



bbcearth

World Bee Day



May Save Western Port Woodlands Update

25

Thanks to all of you who turned out for SWPW's first public meeting at the Corinella Hall on Saturday. We had hoped for 100, expected 6-70, and could hardly believe it when people just kept streaming through the doors. It sends a powerful message to the State Government – Bass Coast people will fight to save the places they love.

The threat to Bass Coast's last significant forest is frightening but there is a real determination to stop the forest being sacrificed for sand for Melbourne's Big Build.

Thanks to our 14 speakers – a mix of local residents, SWPW members and representatives of allied groups who support our campaign – who spoke knowledgably and passionately about the impacts of sand mining and threats to Bass Coast's last significant forest.

Those of you who were there know we passed two resolutions unanimously:

1. This meeting requests the State Government to ensure permanent protection of the last significant stand of mature forest in the Western Port and Bass Coast region, home to threatened species and part of the character of this community.
1. This meeting requests the State Government to place an immediate moratorium on sand mining work authorities to ensure no further expansion of mines operating in this fragile forest corridor until permanent protection of the forests and their connectivity is established.

The resolutions form the basis of a petition that will circulate over the next month before being presented to the Victorian Parliament.

Regards

Catherine Watson
Save Western Port Woodlands
Ph 0401 817 796



MAY
22

Templeton Prize Laureate 2021

Congratulations
Dr Jane Goodall
Scientist, Conservationist, Activist



Templeton Prize



The Templeton Prize honours individuals whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton's philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it

The Prize was established in 1972. Throughout the decades, the Prize always reflected Sir John's core conviction that there is a deeper level of reality that can be accessed through rigorous research, especially in the sciences.

In 2020, the Templeton philanthropies updated the description of the Templeton Prize, focusing it on research, discovery, public engagement, and religious leadership that advance our understanding of, and appreciation for, the insights that science brings to the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's purpose and place within it. [LINK](#)

Q: Which of your discoveries are you most proud of?

A: The fact that animals are sentient beings



Credit: Templeton Prize

Thanks to the chimpanzees ... because it was they ... because of their similarities to us biologically as well as behaviourally, that science gradually came around to *understanding that we are just a part – not separate from - the rest of the animal kingdom*



Jane Goodall: Living a Life of Purpose

Credit: Templeton Prize

Jun
30

Next meeting

Time: 8pm

Venue: Zoom

Open meeting

RSVP for link

Speaker TBA

CONTACTS:

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Secretary

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