ISLAND ARK
symposium
VII

Partnering for Land, Sea and Coast



Phillip Island
NATURE
PARKS

Phillip Island
5-9 September 2022
penguins.org.au



Painting by Adam Magennis



Painting by Patrice Mahoney

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

'Womin jeka (welcome) to Millowl (Phillip Island) – this is Bunurong Country and part of Victoria's Kulin nation. This Country is highly significant, every square inch, every rock, every leaf, every dune and every artefact. Our ancestors collected an ocean of information about the Island, on every living thing, every tree, every animal and the key to the complex balance of all things, which The Bunurong, as Traditional Owners, have managed to evolve and sustain for tens of thousands of years. People today are still learning of the complexities of our ancestors.'

At the Nature Parks, we walk together, side by side, respectfully caring for the Country, Waters and Sea of Millowl. We create a shared future of recognition, opportunity and true partnerships with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We create opportunities for healing through responsible and respectful truth telling and knowledge sharing. As Managers of Crown Land, we acknowledge the many opportunities for deep engagement with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples in managing Country, sharing knowledge and creating opportunities across the business including ecotourism, conservation, business, education, and retail services.

ABOUT PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARKS

Phillip Island Nature Parks was created by the State Government of Victoria in 1996 and comprises over 1,805 hectares of Crown Land set aside under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 "for the conservation of areas of natural interest or beauty or of scientific, historic or archaeological interest."

As part of the UNESCO Western Port Biosphere Reserve, Phillip Island Nature Parks encompasses wildlife sanctuaries, wetlands, woodlands and breathtaking coastlines, which are protected and managed by world-renowned environmental and research programs. Habitat within Phillip Island Nature Parks supports significant populations of Little Penguins, hooded plovers, short-tailed shearwaters and other international migratory bird species, and mammals such as koalas, possums, wallabies, Australian fur seals, bats, and Eastern barred bandicoots. Also under the protection of Nature Parks is a range of plant communities including more than 330 native species.

Phillip Island Nature Parks is an advanced ecotourism destination. Dedicated to quality ecotourism experiences and wildlife management, Nature Parks features the highest number of Advanced Ecotourism accredited types of tours of any tourism operator in Victoria. Phillip Island Nature Parks is a self-funded organisation. Revenue generated through ecotourism activities is invested into vital conservation, research, and education programs.

Our Purpose

To protect nature for wildlife and inspire people to act.

Our Vision

A place where conservation and ecotourism excellence inspire people to actively protect the environment.

Our Values

Guide our decision-making processes and the behaviours in which we work. Each of our values coexist with each other and none is of greater importance than another.

- Nature conservation is paramount
- Engaging Experiences
- Future-focused
- Delivering Outcomes Together

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DR MARK NORMAN, CHIEF SCIENTIST CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE ACTION

Mark joined Parks Victoria as Chief Conservation Scientist in April 2016. Mark is responsible for Parks Victoria's nature conservation and research programs, ensuring effective evidence-based conservation management and support for environmental program delivery across the state. The Environment and Science Division works closely with a wide range of researchers, partner agencies, Traditional Owners, stakeholders and community groups in addressing nature conservation needs and challenges. Mark has extensive experience in wildlife research, biodiversity surveys and science communication. He is also well known as an effective science communicator. Previously, Mark was Head of Sciences at Museums Victoria. His research background has been in marine biology but he has also worked extensively in the establishment of marine protected areas, fisheries research, bird and seal ecology, conservation programs, running terrestrial, freshwater and marine wildlife surveys, science communication, media and ecotourism. Mark holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Zoology, a Diploma of Education (Biology and Environmental Science), and a Doctorate of Zoology from University of Melbourne.



DR CAROLINE BLANVILLAIN

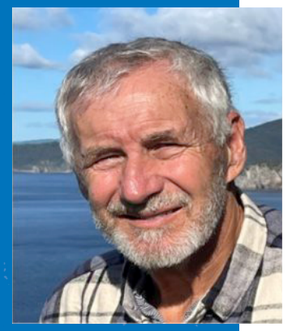
Caroline Blanvillain has a PhD & a veterinary PhD and is a conservationist. Caroline is in charge with land bird conservation for SOP manu (a French Polynesia ONG) since 2012 and has worked for this ONG between 1998 and 2003. Caroline initiated the Tahiti monarch recovery program in 1998, with only 21 adult birds identified and now has reached 103 adult birds in 2020 and at the same time learning to fight more than 10 invasive species in order to protect the birds, including the use of a drone against ants. She has also established a security population for a giant Pigeon and has found the last population of a nearly extinct ground dove and worked to establish a strong biosecurity of the two last inhabited islands of French Polynesia free from black rat.



ANDREW WALSH

Andrew has 20 years of experience in natural resource management across Australia with a focus on biosecurity, pest management and threatened species conservation, both on islands and on the mainland. He successfully led the planning, approvals and implementation of the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project as Project Manager from 2015 to 2020. The project was one of the largest single conservation actions undertaken in Australia. He has since shared lessons with other island managers planning eradications including Waiheke Island, Gabo Island, Flinders Island and islands in the Great Barrier Reef archipelago. As a consultant Andrew has worked on a range of biosecurity and pest projects with highlights including leading the eradication of yellow crazy ants from suburban Darwin; developing the National Biosecurity and Overabundant Native Species Guidelines for the entire Department of Defence estate and developing biosecurity management plans for large infrastructure programs. Andrew was formerly a Supervising Quarantine Inspector with the then Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) undertaking indigenous ranger training, biosecurity inspection, surveillance and incursion response for exotic invasive species including marine pests, weeds, and terrestrial vertebrates and invertebrates across northern Australian islands and the mainland coastline.

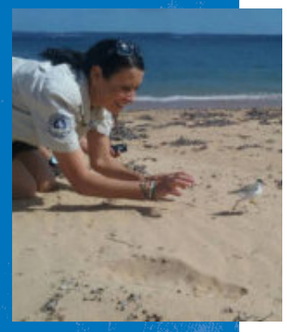
Andrew is currently a Principal NRM consultant with Eco Logica Australia and is a Ministerially appointed member of the NSW Game and Pest Management Advisory Board.



ALAN SAUNDERS, CONSERVATION ADVISOR, AOTEAROA – NEW ZEALAND

Alan's career in conservation reflects a transition in New Zealand over the last 50 years from government-led species recovery projects undertaken mainly on small, uninhabited islands to community-led restoration initiatives involving groups of stakeholders collaborating to achieve shared goals on larger inhabited islands and at 'mainland' sites. For Alan and his peers this has required developing skills in such areas as communication, facilitation and strategic planning so that increasing public awareness of the environment can be translated into more effective conservation action. Engaging with iwi māori and developing cooperative projects that reflect the needs and perspectives of mana whenua (indigenous people of the land) has been both challenging and hugely rewarding for Alan. Since retiring he has provided technical advice and support to community conservation groups that are such a feature of the New Zealand conservation scene today. He continues to be inspired by the vision, passion and commitment these people invariably exhibit.

Having attended previous Island Arks conferences Alan sees this as a valuable forum where island conservation practitioners can share their experiences and knowledge. He is grateful for the organising committee's invitation to attend.



Symposium MC

JESSICA MCKELSON, CONSERVATION MANAGER, PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARKS

Jessica McKelson swapped primates for penguins when she joined Phillip Island Nature Parks as Conservation Manager in 2018. Jess is a serious, driven and passionate conservationist who also has a desire to inspire future conservation leaders – especially women. Her previous roles include 13 years at Melbourne Zoo supervising the Primate Department and managing the Orangutan Quarantine Centre and pre-release training program in Aceh, Indonesia. She is also founder of *Jungle Sistas*, an organisation established to mentor women leaders who work in conservation wildlife management. Jess brings advanced skills in project and business management, animal welfare, staff development and leadership, conservation program strategy and visitor and stakeholder relations to her role. Now an integral part of the Millowl (Phillip Island) community, Jess has led the Conservation Team to many successes including the development of the organisation's first 30-Year Conservation Vision and Threatened Species Plan and guiding the welfare and rehabilitation of wildlife including 12 bushfire affected koalas from Gippsland.



Symposium Facilitator

LIZ STINSON

A former board member of Phillip Island Nature Parks and immediate past Chair of the board, Liz holds a Master of Science degree in Zoology (Alberta) and an honours degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology (Guelph). She worked for many years at operational and management levels in education, community services and environmental education in Canada and Australia. More recently Liz held leadership positions in international business development and student recruitment in Australian universities including the University of South Australia, Deakin, and La Trobe. Liz is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD), and in addition to her involvement with the Nature Parks board, Liz is the Chair of the Board of the University of Canberra Pty Ltd and a member of the boards of Community Housing Ltd and Community Housing (Victoria) Ltd.



Symposium Facilitator

ROLAND PICK

Roland joined the Nature Parks' team in 2012 and has worked in a diverse range of roles across the organisation, including Food & Bev, Admissions, Marketing, Media & Communications, and Visitor Experience. His current role as Interpretations and Projects Officer makes use of the understanding gained from his varied positions over that 10-year period to share the Nature Parks' key messages with our visitors, as well as manage projects around accessibility, signage, and visitor research.



Invited artist

ZEV LANDES

Zev Landes is a creative and communications expert with a passion for helping organisations and institutions communicate their messages to their audience in a playful and impactful ways. Zev has many years of experience consulting and creating for organisations around the world. From a sustainable wooden fin brand in Israel, to a conservation communication organisation he co-founded in Sri Lanka, Zev has demonstrated his ability to take complex messages and ideas and create accessible communication resources. Zev believes that innovative communication is the key to facilitating effective behaviour change within a community and culture.

Island Arks Symposium VII Organising Committee

JESSICA MCKELSON
Phillip Island Nature Parks

DUNCAN SUTHERLAND
Phillip Island Nature Parks

MELISSA CASHMAN
Phillip Island Nature Park

ANDREW DAVIES
Parks Victoria

ANDREW MORRISON
Melbourne Water

CHRIS BANKS
Zoos Victoria

JO RITCHIE
Natural Logic Environmental Management

DORIAN MORO
Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Mantijiljarra Yulparirra Pty Ltd

DEREK BALL
Independent

SALLY BRYANT
Tasmanian Land Conservancy

ANNE BUCHAN
Department of Environment Land Water & Planning

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Penguin Parade Visitor Centre Address
Phillip Island, 1019 Ventnor Road, Summerlands, Victoria

HOW TO GET THERE

By car: Phillip Island is located 90 minutes drive from Melbourne. Allow a further 20 minutes from the bridge to get to the Penguin Parade. Free car parking on site.

By bus: Public transport is limited on Phillip Island. V-line operates a bus to Phillip Island's main town, Cowes, from Southern Cross Station in Melbourne city.

Please note that the V-line bus does not go to the Penguin Parade and there are no return buses to Melbourne at the conclusion of the Penguin Parade.

By taxi: Contact Phillip Island Taxis on 03 5952 2200 to arrange transfers on Phillip Island. Name Badges – can use the same as the attached program

NAME BADGES

Each delegate registered for the Conference will receive a name badge at the Registration Desk. This badge will be your official pass and must be clearly visible at all times to obtain entry to all sessions and to social functions.

REGISTRATION DESK

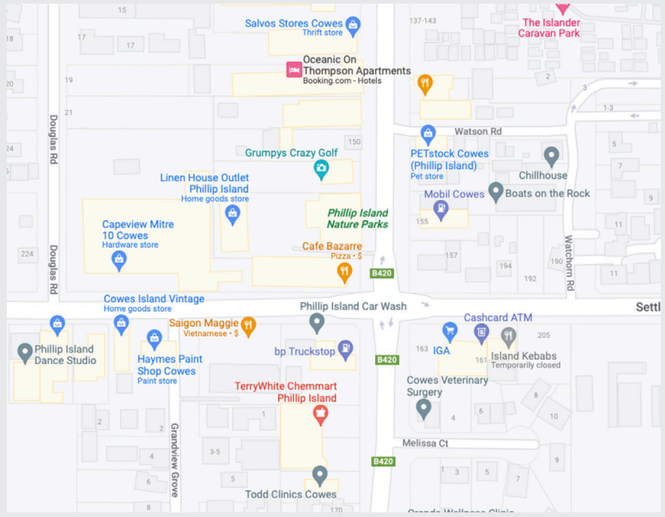
The Registration Desk will be located inside the entrance to the Phillip Island Nature Parks Penguin Parade and open at the following times:

- Monday 5 September: 15:00 – 16:30
- Tuesday 6 September 08:30 – 09:00

Melissa Cashman will be onsite each day to assist with any late arrivals

Thank you to our sponsors

ACCOMODATION



THE WAVES APARTMENTS
1/3 The Esplanade
Cowes VIC 3922
T 03 5952 1351

NORTH PIER HOTEL
5 The Esplanade
Cowes VIC 3922
T 03 5951 4488

PHILLIP ISLAND APARTMENTS
Chapel Street
Cowes VIC 3922
T 03 5952 2644

RAMADA
Resort by Wyndham
2128 Phillip Island Road
Cowes VIC 3922
T 03 5952 8000



Penguin Parade boardwalk

PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2022

MONDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER

VENUE: Penguin Parade Visitors Centre, 1019 Ventnor Rd, Summerlands

Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony

Registration: 15:00
Speaker: Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Formal opening speeches

Time: 16:30
Speakers: Kevin Love - Chair Phillip Island Nature Parks Board of Management
Jessica McKelson - Conservation Manager Phillip Island Nature Parks

Challenges and Opportunities for Island Conservation in Victoria, Australia

Time: 17:30
Keynote speaker: Dr Mark Norman

Cocktail dinner

Time: 18:00

TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

VENUE: Penguin Parade Visitors Centre, 1019 Ventnor Rd, Summerlands

Morning opening

Time: 9:00
Speaker: Jessica McKelson

Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication

Keynote speaker: Andrew Walsh
Session chair: Duncan Sutherland | 9:15 - 9:45
Session chair: Andrew Walsh | 9:45 - 12:00

Topic	Time	Speaker
Implementing the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project – Project overview and planning and implementation challenges	9:15	Andrew Walsh
Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project- Community engagement in complex community - based conservation projects	9:45	Darcelle Matassoni
The journey towards biosecurity improvements on Lord Howe Island	10:00	Chris Birmingham Hank Bower
Protection and mortality of non-target terrestrial bird species during the eradication of rodents on Lord Howe Island, Australia	10:15	Nicholas Carlile
BREAK	10:30	
Captive management of at-risk non-target species during the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Program: Insights into insurance population management in a remote location	11:00	Michael Shiels
The Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication: Lessons Learnt from an Inhabited Island	11:15	Simon Pahor
Lord Howe Island rat response: Removal of rats following detection 18 months after a rodent eradication attempt	11:30	Simon Pahor, Darcelle Matassoni Hank Bower
Summary of anecdotal species recovery evidence and key lessons learned	11:45	Andrew Walsh
Q&A session	12:00	LHI speakers
LUNCH	12:15	

PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2022 CONT...

TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

VENUE: Penguin Parade Visitors Centre, 1019 Ventnor Rd, Summerlands

Engaging island communities

Session chair: Duncan Sutherland | 13.15 - 13.30
Session chair: Derek Ball | 13.30 - 14.15

Topic	Time	Speaker
Bunurong Land Councils' new environment team	13:15	Shani Blyth
The Power of Conservation Partnerships on Phillip Island and Beyond: Preserving Western Port from Industrialisation	13:30	Jeff Nottle
Collaborative enterprises for island sustainability: a story of community action as told through two alliances on Phillip Island	13:45	Zoe Geyer
Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata, Haere Whakamua (Care for the land, Care for the people, Go forward): a few examples of how this works in Aotearoa	14:00	Jo Ritchie
Community led engagement for a Rabbit Free Phillip Island	14:15	Gayle Seddon
BREAK	14:30	

Island Biosecurity

Session chair: Jo Ritchie

Topic	Time	Speaker
The snowball effect of social licence: limiting pest invasions on the islands of Auckland's Hauraki Gulf	15:00	Peter Corson
Development of an integrated island biosecurity framework	15:15	Yang Liu

Marine and Coastal Threats

Session chair: Jo Ritchie

Topic	Time	Speaker
Vulnerable marine littoral faunas	15:30	Penelope Greenslade
Marine threatening processes for island arks: a case study of Australian fur seals	15:45	Rebecca McIntosh
Are insidious infectious abortions contributing to decreased Australian fur seal recruitment?	16:00	Brett Gardner
Sherlock Holmsing in the South: applying a smart sentinel approach to understanding the triggers and responses of marine predators to environmental and Anthropogenic change	16:15	Mary-Anne Lea
CLOSE	16:30	JESSICA MCKELSON

DINNER:* *Rusty Water Brewery*
1821 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes
TIME: *18:30*
Optional activity: *Tour at the Koala Conservation Reserve*
1810 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes
TIME: *20:30*



**at own cost*

WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

VENUE: Penguin Parade Visitors Centre, 1019 Ventnor Rd, Summerlands

Morning opening

Time: 9:00
Speaker: Jessica McKelson

Supporting community conservation initiatives in Aotearoa-New Zealand: some personal observations and suggestions

Time: 9:15
Keynote speaker: Alan Saunders
Session chair: Dorian Moro

Action planning for Australia's islands

Session chair: Dorian Moro

Topic	Time	Speaker
Supporting community conservation initiatives in Aotearoa-New Zealand: some personal observations and suggestions	9:15	Alan Saunders
Safeguarding our sacred islands into the future: taking action beyond mere words	9:45	Tanya Vernes
Conservation entrepreneurship for offshore island enterprises: a perspective	10:00	Derek Ball
Island partnerships building collective impact	10:15	Sally Bryant
BREAK	10:30	
Assessing and adapting island biodiversity to the risks of climate change	11:00	Derek Ball
Lessons from the first national database of threatened species on Australian islands: towards a national island solutions platform	11:15	Salit Kark
How do we drive a renaissance for national island conservation in Australia?	11:30	Derek Ball

Seabirds in a changing environment

Session chair: Sally Bryant

Topic	Time	Speaker
The climate crisis and the need for immediate on-ground action: an example from Millowl (Phillip Island)	11:45	Paula Wasiak
Catastrophic decline in a super colony of Little penguins	12:00	Duncan Sutherland
LUNCH	12:15	

Workshop

Session chair: Dorian Moro

Topic	Time	Facilitator
Planning for a national island platform in Australia	13:15	Liz Stinson
BREAK	15:30	
CLOSE	16:00	JESSICA MCKELSON

DINNER: *At own leisure*
TIME: *17:15*

PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2022 CONT...

THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

VENUE: Penguin Parade Visitors Centre, 1019 Ventnor Rd, Summerlands

Morning opening

Time: 9:00
Speaker: Jessica McKelson

Threatened Species

Keynote speaker: Dr Caroline Blanvillain
Session chair: Chris Banks

Topic	Time	Speaker
A life saving critically endangered species of French Polynesia	9:15	Dr Caroline Blanvillain
Eradicating a rare endemic bird to protect a common ubiquitous seabird	9:45	John Parkes
The foraging ecology of an endangered ecosystem engineer translocated beyond its historical range	10:00	Ella Loeffler
Communities and threatened species conservation: a Phillip Island case study	10:15	Thomas Nixon
BREAK	10:30	
Better home ranges and gardens: using home range analyses to investigate how habitat restoration can improve territory quality for a Critically Endangered island owl	11:00	Florence Sperring
Protecting a threatened petrel improves a seabird community... A story from the other Phillip Island	11:15	Joel Christian

Keeping the Ark in the Dark

Session chair: Sally Bryant

Topic	Time	Speaker
The visual ecology of light attraction in Hawaiian seabirds	11:30	Hannah Moon
The National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife – protecting the (d)ark for wildlife	11:45	Cesar San Miguel
Dark Sky Ark	12:00	Marnie Ogg
LUNCH	12:15	

Pest Management on Islands

Session chair: Duncan Sutherland | 13.15 - 13.30
Session chair: Andrew Davies | 13.30 - 15:15

Topic	Time	Speaker
Deen Maar – rabbit eradication on an island of great cultural significance	13:15	TBC
Successful eradication of Feral Pig population on Quail Island, Victoria: restoring ecological values within a Ramsar area	13:30	Alisson Bolden
Not kitten around. The feral cat free French Island project.	13:45	Michael Johnston
Kangaroo Island feral cat eradication, community support for advanced technologies; implications for other programs	14:00	James Smith Hamesh Shah
Improving invasive rodent management with above-ground monitoring and control	14:15	Alexandra H. Nance
BREAK	14:30	
Act for the best, prepare for the worst - will cat removal in isolation lead to improved outcomes for birds in a multi -invaded island ecosystem?	15:00	Rosalie Willacy
Testing the efficacy of 'Curiosity' feral cat baiting in woodland on Kangaroo Island, South Australia	15:15	Rosemary Hohne

Seabirds in a changing environment

Session chair: Duncan Sutherland

Topic	Time	Speaker
Tasmania – the Australian refuge for beach-nesting shorebirds	15:30	Eric Woehler
Changing transequatorial migration of short-tailed shearwaters	15:45	David Boyle
Changes in short-tailed shearwater distribution in Alaska and the influence of environmental conditions	16:00	Kathy Kuletz
Impacts of marine heatwaves may be mediated by seabirds' life history strategies	16:15	Eric Woehler
CLOSE	16:30	JESSICA MCKELSON

DINNER:* *Dinner at Bang Bang Bar and Food*
13-18 Phillip Island Rd, Cape Woolamai
TIME: *18:00*

Optional activity: *Eastern barred bandicoot spotlighting tour*
Churchill Island Heritage Farm
246 Samuel Ames Drive, Newhaven
TIME: *20:00*



FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER

VENUE: Penguin Parade Visitors Centre, 1019 Ventnor Rd, Summerlands

Morning opening

Time: 9:00
Speaker: Jessica McKelson

Conservation Dog presentation and demonstration

Time: 9:15
Speakers: Craig Bester, Stuart Murphy

Workshop

Session chair: Jo Ritchie

Topic	Time	Facilitator/speaker
Island sustainability and community action: developing foundational principles	10:00	Roland Pick
SYMPOSIUM CLOSE	12:00	JESSICA MCKELSON

SATURDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER

Post-conference tour to French Island

ABSTRACTS

click **here** to view full abstracts

ACTIVITIES

FRENCH ISLAND POST SYMPOSIUM TOUR

Explore French Island with all its natural beauty on this small tour hosted by Melbourne Water (20 pax max). Phillip Island Nature Parks has been working closely with its sister island – French Island – on Eastern barred bandicoot conservation and recovery efforts.

DETECTION DOG PRESENTATION AND DEMONSTRATION

Detection dogs have been an integral tool in the eradication of foxes on Phillip Island, and now they're helping us face the next big threat to our wildlife, feral cats.





KOALA CONSERVATION RESERVE – KOALA PROWL SPOTLIGHTING TOUR

Discover the amazing nocturnal wildlife of Millowl's (Phillip Island's) woodlands from the vantage point of our treetop boardwalks. By the light of a ranger's spotlight, you can spot possums, owls, bats and spider and insect life, and of course, the stars of the show, koalas. Investigate the behaviour, habitat and requirements of the nocturnal animals you discover.

Dining Out

Create Catering, an award-winning caterer at national and state levels with a passion for using local produce and suppliers, and a focus on sustainability and no single-use plastics, now offer catering services at all four Phillip Island Nature Parks attractions – the Penguin Parade, Churchill Island, The Nobbies Centre and Koala Conservation Reserve.

CREATE CATERING

Light-filled venue with a fireplace, serving local brews and hearty dishes and live music.

Rusty Water Brewery,
1821 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes

rusty water BREWERY
restaurant&bar
HANDCRAFTED NATURALLY BREWED ALES

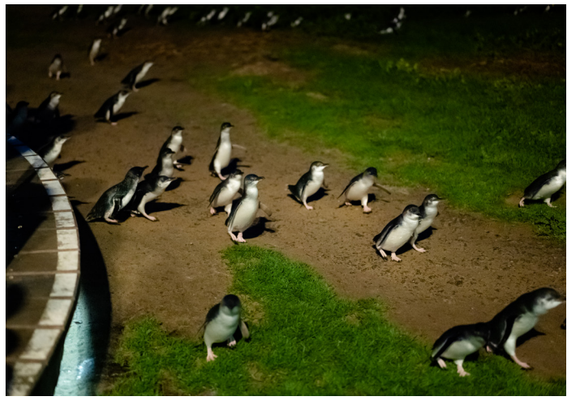
BANG BANG BAR AND FOOD

Bang Bang Bar and Food is a breezy coastal bar where they serve wide selection of beer, gin, rum with influenced by Asian food is made to be shared and enjoyed amongst family and friends

Bang Bang Bar & Food
13/18 Phillip Island Rd, Cape Woolamai

PENGUIN PARADE VISIT

Phillip Island is home to the largest Little Penguin colony in the world. You can experience the magic of watching these amazing seabirds waddle home from the ocean to their burrows any night of the year from our viewing platforms and boardwalks.





EASTERN BARRED BANDICOOT SPOTLIGHTING

The Eastern barred bandicoot is one of Australia's most fascinating native animals. These small nocturnal marsupials were once widespread across southwest Victoria and Tasmania. Today, the mainland Eastern barred bandicoot is extinct in the wild due to predation by foxes and the loss of much of its native habitat.

Fortunately, recovery efforts to reintroduce the Eastern barred bandicoot into the wild, including at Churchill Island and Summerland Peninsula, which is managed by Phillip Island Nature Parks have been successful.

Phillip Island
NATURE
PARKS

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#PhillipislandNP