

# Point Nepean

## National Park & Marine Education

### *Getting on with the job*



*Total Australian Government funding of \$48 million for Heritage and the National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation, including \$27 million new funding.*



### A message from the Prime Minister

The Australian Government is getting on with the job of establishing Point Nepean as a National Park by allocating an additional and immediate \$27 million to protect heritage values, provide facilities for marine and coastal education and research and open the site to public access and community use.

The outcome for Point Nepean comprises three commitments:

First, inclusion of the full 294 hectares of Commonwealth land within a National Park for all Australians for all time. This is guaranteed and is reaffirmed by legally binding commitment.

Second, almost \$48 million in funding from the Australian Government (including this latest announcement of \$27m) and a \$10 million philanthropic contribution.

Third, use of the existing Quarantine and Barracks buildings for a National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation, along with use by heritage groups, the community and respite care for disadvantaged children and their families.

As in Sydney, the Australian Government has established a public trust to manage preservation and conversion of the military buildings to educational, heritage and community use. Just as the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust will complete its work before transferring the land to the NSW Government, remaining Commonwealth land at Point Nepean will be transferred to the Victorian Government as a national park.

The Australian Government has already transferred the bulk of the land at Point Nepean (approximately 204 hectares) to the Victorian Government for inclusion in the national park and has committed to transfer the remaining heritage precinct by mid 2009.

The public trust has already begun the work of establishing the National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation which is to be run by the Australian Maritime College. The Australian Government has allocated \$9.7 million over 7 years to fund up to 110 student

places in marine education with the first students having been enrolled this year. The Centre will also encourage visits from primary and secondary school students, particularly from the Mornington Peninsula.

Use of the buildings is subject not only to Commonwealth legislation but also to State and local planning laws. Indeed Point Nepean is now in the first 30 properties in Australia entered in the National Heritage List. The Trust has already begun to open the Heritage precinct to the public and will increasingly do so in the near future.

The Australian Government is proud of its contribution towards securing Point Nepean as a national park. I trust that the site will be a source of enjoyment and learning for all members of the community in the years to come.

No-one could have fought more resolutely for a National Park and Marine Education Centre for Point Nepean, than the local Federal Member for Flinders, Greg Hunt MP. He was unrelenting in his determination in arguing the local case in Canberra. And he succeeded wonderfully.

*John Howard*



## Completing the National Park

The Commonwealth land at Point Nepean will become a National Park in two stages.

In Stage 1, the Commonwealth has already transferred the bulk of the bushland (approximately 204 hectares), to the Victorian Government for inclusion within the existing National Park.

Under Stage 2, the remaining 90 hectare Heritage precinct will be restored, opened up for community use and transferred to Victoria for inclusion in the National Park by mid 2009. The Heritage precinct comprises 100 buildings of the former Army School of Health and Quarantine Station, 65 of which are heritage listed.

As in Sydney, a public trust has been established to manage transition of the Heritage precinct to community, educational and heritage use and to assist in preparation of the heritage precinct for inclusion in the National Park.

The entire site is entered in the Commonwealth Heritage List and is now one of the first 30 sites in the National Heritage List. This provides maximum protection for the heritage values under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Transfer of the Heritage precinct will occur by mid 2009 on agreement that the land will be declared National Park and the Heritage buildings maintained.

The first Object of the Trust requires that the Heritage Precinct is managed "consistent with the land becoming an Integrated National Park".

## The Point Nepean Community Trust

The Point Nepean Community Trust is a public trust which was established on 10 June 2004. The Trust's vision is to work with community groups to create a sustainable future for the Heritage precinct, including establishment of a Marine Education Centre within a world-class National Park.

The Community Trust Deed ensures no commercial development of the land, preservation of all heritage buildings and the natural environment, guaranteed public access and consultation, application of State and Local Government planning laws, protection of the heritage values under the EPBC Act and management of the land in accordance with the key aspects of the Draft Community Master Plan as a National Park.

The trustees include:

- the Chairman, Mr Simon McKeon, who is also Chairman of MS Research Australia and a Board member of World Vision Australia;
- two elected members of the Community Reference Group, Dr Ursula de Jong and Mr David Stewart;
- the Chair of the Australian Heritage Council, Mr Tom Harley;
- a representative of the Australian Maritime College, Dr Paul McShane;
- the Deputy Director of Parks Australia, Mr Bruce Leaver, and the Executive Director of the Sydney Harbour Trust, Mr Geoff Bailey; and,
- a representative of the Victorian Boonerwong Elders Land Council, Ms Carolyn Briggs.

The CEO of Parks Victoria has also been invited to become, or to nominate a trustee.

Once community uses have been established, the Heritage precinct will be incorporated into the National Park. The Trust outlines three key community uses for the existing heritage buildings: to promote marine and coastal education; to encourage understanding of the indigenous and European history of the land; and to provide respite care for a small number of families of children with disabilities. Community groups are also invited to approach the Trust with community initiatives.





## National Centre for Marine & Coastal Conservation: The Australian Maritime College

The Australian Government has allocated \$9.7 million over 7 years to the Australian Maritime College to establish a National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation within the existing Barracks precinct. The first degree students were enrolled in 2006 with local primary and secondary students having commenced the Schools at Sea programme in 2005.

The vision is for a world class marine research facility administered by the Australian Maritime College. This will provide opportunities for students from the Mornington Peninsula and throughout Australia to study Victoria's marine and coastal environment.

The Centre will be modest in size comprising approximately 110 tertiary students with an intake of 40 students per year. It is anticipated that students will be able to live in existing dormitories. It is hoped a small number of international researchers will visit the Centre to provide instruction to students. The Australian Maritime College will work with the Trust to create a truly co-operative National Centre through research partnerships with educational and environmental groups such as the Dolphin Research Institute.

**For more information about student places contact:**

[www.amc.edu.au/ncmcc](http://www.amc.edu.au/ncmcc) or Email: [info@ncmcc.edu.au](mailto:info@ncmcc.edu.au)  
Freecall 1800 199 879 (within Australia)

## Questions?

**Is the Commonwealth committed to transferring its land to National Park?**

**Yes** - The Commonwealth has already transferred the bulk of the bushland (approximately 204 hectares) to Victoria for inclusion in the National Park. The remaining 90 hectare Heritage precinct will become available for inclusion in the National Park once the National Centre for Marine Education and other community uses for the buildings have been established. This will occur by mid 2009.

**Can there be commercial development under the Trust?**

**No** - commercial development is ruled out by the Trust Deed. Existing buildings will include modest dining and cafe facilities and limited student accommodation.

**By contrast, can there be commercial development under the Bracks Government's proposal?**

**Yes** - On 3 October 2003 the Bracks Government released a proposal for an 80 bed 3 star cliff-top accommodation facility, 150 bed Backpacker precinct, Conference facilities and Holiday Homes on Police Point.

**How much funding is available?**

A total of **almost \$48 million in funding has been allocated by the Australian Government** and \$10 million in philanthropic funding.

Australian Government Funding	Philanthropic Funding	State Government Funding
\$4m Federation Funding (2001)	\$10m Respite for terminally ill and disadvantaged children and their families	\$0m
\$9.7m Allocation to the Australian Maritime College (2004)		
\$5m Initial allocation to the Trust for Heritage works (2004)		
\$2m Rehabilitation of bushland (2005)		
\$0.3m Marine Research and Heritage grants (2006)		
\$27m Recent allocation to the Trust for Restoration and Heritage works(2006)		
<b>\$48m Total Federal funding</b>	<b>\$10m Philanthropic funding</b>	<b>\$0 State Government funding</b>

# Future Steps

## ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE

- The bulk of the bushland (approximately 204 hectares) has already been transferred to Victoria for inclusion in the National Park
- Police Point transferred to Mornington Peninsula Shire and a public park established
- Public Trust established to manage preservation and conversion of the military buildings to educational, heritage & community use
- Trustees and a Management team appointed
- \$48 million committed to the Trust by the Australian Government for marine education and heritage and \$10 million in philanthropic funding for respite care
- The Commonwealth Funding comprises:
  - \$4m already invested in Heritage restoration
  - \$9.7m funding for the Australian Maritime College over 7 years to establish a National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation
  - \$5m initial allocation to the Trust
  - \$0.3m for Marine Research and Heritage
  - \$2m for rehabilitation of the bushland
  - \$27m allocation in 2006 to the Trust for completion of the Heritage, educational, community and respite projects

- The Trust has already begun to open the Heritage precinct to the public and will increasingly do so in the near future
- Schools at Sea Program commenced in 2005
- Foundation Professor of National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation appointed, 2006
- Full course marine education program commenced in 2006
- Point Nepean inscribed on the National Heritage List, 2006

## FUTURE STEPS

### Trust

- The Trust's overriding task is to prepare the Heritage buildings for heritage and community use and inclusion within the National Park
- Finalisation of plan for community use of Barracks buildings including indigenous site mapping
- Commercial development prohibited
- Completion of restoration and preparation of buildings for community use
- Completion of water and power infrastructure
- Incorporation of remaining Heritage Precinct into National Park by mid 2009

### National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation

- Establish partnerships with marine and educational groups
- Further development of Schools at Sea Program
- Further development of Australian Maritime College marine courses
- Development of international marine research centre

### Heritage Precinct

- Establish Cultural Heritage centre for training of indigenous students in conservation, history and land management
- Schools Indigenous Heritage course to be hosted by Greening Australia during Spring 2006

### Ongoing Heritage displays

### Children's Respite Care

- Trust to establish partnerships with respite groups within children's sector
- Trust and respite groups to develop plan and usage guidelines for small respite area
- Preparation of special accommodation and other needs in respite area
- Commencement of visits by terminally ill and disadvantaged children



"I look forward to the completion of Education Centre within a world-class National Park at Point Nepean that preserves the heritage buildings and natural environment for future generations to enjoy."

"If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 5979 3188."

GREG HUNT MP  
Federal Member for Flinders