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Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2005

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[Coastal Awards for Excellence Winners](#)

Photo of recipients on the right - [larger scale](#)



Some of the 13 Award Winners and their project partners at the ceremony held 20 April 2005

Diane James, Chairman of the Victorian Coastal Council and the Hon. John Thwaites, Minister for Environment presented the 2005 Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence in Elwood on Wednesday 20 April 2004.

The awards, a joint initiative of the Victorian Coastal Council and the Coast Action / Coastcare Program, recognise the valuable work being undertaken by individuals, community groups, committees of management, government agencies and local governments in managing our coastal and marine areas.



2005 VICTORIAN COASTAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

[John Sherwood](#) for Lifetime Achievement

[Warren Chapman](#) for Outstanding Individual Achievement

[Seastar 2004 Team](#) for Coastal Conservation and Protection by a Community Group

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Manager

[The Friends of the Bluff](#) for Education

[South West Working Group - Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team](#) for Species Protection

[Kerstin Thompson Architects P/L](#) for Building & Design

and

[DPI Queenscliff Centre in Association with Lyons Architects](#) for Building & Design

[Reef Watch](#) for Innovation

[Western Independent Young People's Network](#) for Cultural Achievement

[WTFN](#) for Media

and

[The Age](#) for Media

[City of Greater Geelong](#) for Water Quality

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VICTORIAN COASTAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

John Sherwood for Lifetime Achievement



Lifetime Achiever John Sherwood with Minister for Environment John Thwaites

John Sherwood has made a long-standing, significant contribution to the conservation of estuarine and marine communities through his paid and voluntary work with scientific, professional and lay communities.

John has endeavoured to ensure that the latest knowledge on marine and estuarine communities is translated to decision-makers and coastal management agencies, particularly along Victoria's West Coast.

His field and laboratory research has fallen largely within two main areas: Estuaries and Aquatic Biogeochemistry.

John has been involved with a wide variety of community groups and organisations, including many associated with the Hopkins Estuary. He has published numerous articles and books.

His ability to advocate for the coast has made him a popular speaker at events. His teaching skills make him a highly popular instructor and many of his students have been inspired to continue working on environmental causes.

John's personable and down to earth nature endears him many, from colleagues, students and academics to local fisherman.

Through both his research and through his community roles, John Sherwood has made a major contribution to the sustainable management of Victoria's estuaries, coast and the seas.

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Warren Chapman for Outstanding Individual Achievement

A former Manager of the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee, Warren Chapman, was a popular member of the coastal community. With severely limited funds and massive expectations, he achieved outcomes at a level hard to imagine.

Twenty years later little has changed. Ocean Grove Committee of Management merged to become the Barwon Coast Committee of Management, one of the most self sufficient Committees on our coast. Warren, as Reserve Manager, is still manager, as enthusiastic as ever, looking forward to delivering the next positive outcome for the coast that more than likely will involve him working in his own time with a group from the local coastal community.

Warren Chapman has contributed far more than is required on his Position Description. This award is not for fulfilling the duties required of him, it is for the role Warren fulfils outside his PD that has been acknowledged.

The role of observing, thinking about, or planning for, the ever-changing environment Warren works in, often in his own time:

- working with local communities to establish "friends " groups
- instigating, developing and implementing a bi-annual workshop for staff from a number of regional CoM's and State Agencies
- driving the refurbishment of the former works depot to establish a major Coastal Interpretation Centre now known as the Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre

In recent years Warren Chapman has led and coordinated many of the projects undertaken by Barwon Coast Committee of Management. His colleagues say it would be impossible to define the outstanding commitment he has made to the coastal environment he works in.

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Seastar 2004 Team for Coastal Conservation and Protection by a Community Group

In January 2004, local beachgoers reported the presence of some seastars that had never been seen around Inverloch - the Northern Pacific Seastar, a voracious and destructive introduced pest. A partnership was immediately forged between the local community and Government agencies prompting an emergency response involving over 300 volunteers - the Seastar 2004 team.

The volunteers hand collected the seastars from the coastal waters around Inverloch for some months after the initial sightings in an effort to eradicate the pest from local waters.

Volunteers included divers, boat drivers, the Red Cross, SES, the Surf Life Saving Club, commercial fishermen, beach combers, the local Environment Committee, Rate Payers Association, local businesses, and various Government agencies - many attending every dive event during the month spent looking for the population, and then the months spent hand collecting them.

Unlike the population now well established and breeding in Port Phillip Bay, there was a small window of opportunity to eradicate this pest which originates from north east Asia.

Had the seastar been left to its devices there was a strong chance it could have spread along the east-coast of Victoria and into the southern waters of NSW.

The response appears to have prevented further spread of the marine pest with recent surveys showing promising results.

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Hobsons Bay City Council for Coastal Conservation and Protection by an Appointed Manager

Hobsons Bay City Council is leading a partnership project to develop the Truganina Coastal Parklands, the largest cluster of open recreational space, comprising around 300 hectares.

Community groups are working in partnership with Council to restore, replant, and also celebrate the once forgotten but highly significant natural values of this part of coastal Port Phillip Bay, including its internationally significant coastal wetlands.

Council has sought active participation from local community groups, local business, industry and government agencies and encouraged the development of partnerships for the stewardship of this area.

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The Friends of the Bluff for Education

The Friends of the Bluff have created a multimedia resource showcasing the underwater diversity and spectacle of the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary. The Living on the Edge interactive CD and website describes life on the edge of the Barwon Bluff and Marine Sanctuary.

Images, underwater video footage, and historic photos depicting life in the growing settlement, together with over 100 lesson plans for primary and secondary schools, make this an outstanding educational resource.

This project demonstrates that it is possible, without a big multimedia company, to create powerful tools for community environmental education by using new information technologies and community willpower.

Lots of groups came together as partners in the project including Parks Victoria, Coast Action/Coastcare, the Marine Discovery Centre and Barwon Coast Committee of Management.

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South West Working Group - Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team for Species Protection

There were many hundreds of Orange Bellied Parrots flying across Bass Strait in the 1930s and 40s. Now the world population is less than 200. It's one of Australia's most threatened species, and it has a direct dependence on coastal vegetation, particularly coastal saltmarsh.

Due to rapid changes to the coastal environment over the last 50 years, in particular the clearing of coastal saltmarsh for housing, farms, boat ramps and parking, this species of bird is in serious threat.