



Point Nepean
Community Trust

An Australian Government Initiative

Point Nepean Community Trust Preparing the Quarantine Station for Use FACT SHEET



Education and the NCMCC at the Quarantine Station



The Point Nepean Community Trust (PNCT) has managed the Quarantine Station/Norris Barracks since June 2004 on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. On 16 June 2006, the Commonwealth made two important announcements impacting on the site's future when it provided \$27 million in extra funding to the PNCT and added Point Nepean to the National Heritage List.

In *Point Nepean National Park and Marine Education – Getting on with the Job* released in October 2004, the Prime Minister the Hon John Howard and the Member for Flinders the Hon Greg Hunt MP publicly announced the progressive opening of the Quarantine Station land to the Australian public, and, amongst other things, the establishment of a National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation (NCMCC) on the site by the Australian Maritime College (AMC).

With additional Commonwealth funding announced 16 June 2006, the Point Nepean Community Trust will undertake works to open the Quarantine Station site for community use, including preparation of selected heritage buildings and grounds for use by the marine and coastal conservation national centre.

In 2004-2005, the AMC was awarded additional funding of \$9.7 million over 7 years for student places and the operational development of a Point Nepean campus.

The National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation was established in June 2005 as a division of the Australian Maritime College. Its mission includes the provision of world-class higher education and training to enable balanced, responsible management of the marine and coastal environment and resources. The NCMCC's vision is to be an international leader in multi-disciplinary research and higher education, seeking solutions to current and future issues for the benefit of society. A primary example is the establishment of the International Marine Biosecurity Education and Research Consortium, supported by the Department of Environment and Heritage, with an international workshop held in June 2006 of representatives from around the Pacific basin including the Smithsonian Institution, Portland State University (USA) and Victoria University of Wellington (NZ).

In 2006, the NCMCC commenced delivery of undergraduate courses at the Rosebud campus of Chisholm Institute. The NCMCC will offer undergraduate courses, professional development courses, and postgraduate research programs at Point Nepean as soon as the site works are completed.

The draft Point Nepean National Park and Point Nepean Quarantine Station Management Plan, soon to be released for community comment, provides for a sustainable mix of recreation, tourism, education, research and community uses, applying high standards of environment management, with a focus on learning and heritage appreciation. Innovative and inspiring interpretation and education opportunities are central to community use of the site. The Draft Management Plan envisages a range of educational activities at the Quarantine Station, drawing upon the site's unique range of heritage values. As part of its forward planning program enabled by additional Commonwealth funding, the PNCT will be calling for expressions of interest and tenders to build further educational and applied research activities that contribute knowledge of the environmental sciences, marine and coastal management and heritage conservation at Point Nepean.

Level 1, 189 Flinders Lane Melbourne Victoria 3000 – PO Box 5002 Melbourne Victoria 3001
T 03 9639 5944 F 03 9639 7411 E info@pointnepeantrust.org W www.pointnepeantrust.org



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The PNCT will seek approval for a long term lease for the NCMCC, in accordance with the Deed of Trust of the Point Nepean Community Trust, in consultation with State and Commonwealth agencies, the State of Victoria and the community. Shared community use of educational and related facilities will be enabled wherever possible.

For further information contact:

Jan McGuinness, PNCT Communications Manager,

PH: 03 9427 0721 0407 850 024

Email: jan@pointnepeantrust.org

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Toothpicks Creative,

Ph: 03 96862799

Email: tpicks@bigpond.net.au

Level 1, 189 Flinders Lane Melbourne Victoria 3000 – PO Box 5002 Melbourne Victoria 3001

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