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Four injured in island crash

A CRIB Point man is fighting for his life in The Alfred hospital after a serious car accident on French Island on Sunday.

Three other people from Crib Point were injured, one seriously, when the car they were travelling in rolled several times about 3.30am. Two ambulances

made a mercy dash to transport the injured people and the Sorrento-based Southern Peninsula Rescue chopper took Hastings police and major collision investigation unit officers to the island.

It is believed the 1985 Toyota Corona was travelling on a dirt track

when it rolled at the intersection of Tankerton and Saltmine Point roads.

Police did not release the names of the injured, but said they were all Crib Point residents aged in their mid-20s.

Two people were taken to The Alfred — a man with life-threatening

injuries and a woman with serious injuries. A man and a woman were flown to the Frankston Hospital with minor injuries.

It is the first major car accident for several years on the island, which has a permanent population of about 90 people.

Jo Winterbottom

Damaged port goes with flow

By Mike Hast

WESTERN Port Seagrass Partnership has released a documentary on the state of Western Port — and it's bad news.

Western Port Cherished and Challenged, which has been produced with \$50,000 from Esso, is narrated by satirist, comedian and actor John Clarke, who owns a property on Phillip Island and is a member of the partnership.

The free DVD also features rare footage from an early 1970s baywide environmental study that was commissioned by the State Government when the 'Battle for Western Port' grabbed national media attention as industrialists and conservationists fought a bitter battle over development of the region.

Western Port had been earmarked as a site for heavy industry by former premier Henry Bolte's Liberal state government since the early 1960s. One plan called for a nuclear reactor on French Island and the now-defunct

State Electricity Commission bought up large tracts of land on the island.

BP built a refinery at Crib Point that is now abandoned. John Lysaght Pty Ltd built a steel mill near Hastings, now owned by BlueScope Steel, and Esso built a gas refractionation plant near the steel mill, which still operates. The Government then ended the grand experiment to make Western Port the 'Ruhr of Victoria', in reference to the heavily industrialised region in Germany.

The DVD also contains three documentaries made by the ABC for the government in 1981 and an ABC television news story about Tim 'Dr Mangrove' Ealey planting seagrass and mangroves with schoolchildren on the eastern shore.

But the most significant footage is from the latest doco, made last year, which charts the decline of Western Port over the past 35 years.

Erosion from fast-flowing drains and creeks, once filtered and slowed by the Koo Wee Rup swamp, as well as sea level rises, more frequent storm



Not funny: John Clarke, left, and Western Port Seagrass Partnership secretary and treasurer Doug Newton at the DVD release.
 Picture: Daryl Gordon

surges and polluted runoff from agricultural and urban land, have caused the death of vast areas of seagrass and mangrove and reduced flora and fauna communities.

Partnership scientists say the effects of the draining of the swamp, to create some of the state's most fertile farming land, are still being felt more than 100 years on.

They estimate Western Port receives more than 60,000 tonnes of sediment a year from drains and streams, as well as erosion in the catchment and the edges of the bay. The sediment smothers life in Western Port including the crucial seagrass meadows that

hold up the bottom of the food chain stretching from micro-organisms all the way up to fish, seals, penguins and killer whales.

Loss of mangroves has caused massive erosion, especially on the northern and eastern shores, with sections around Lang Lang losing up to one metre a year.

Plans to save the fragile region focus on trying to 'slow the flow'. However, pessimistic conservationists say it's already too late to save Western Port.

Copies of the DVD can be obtained from the Seagrass Partnership website, www.seagrass.com.au

Woorinyan says 'Yes' to Optus

Woorinyan is always looking for new ways to remain financially viable and recently engaged Optus to assist with restructuring its telecommunications. Woorinyan CEO, Michael Anderson explains, "Like most charitable organisations, funding presents a challenge for us so we need to find new ways to increase our fund raising capability and control our expenditure. We engaged Gareth Wyatt from Optus Business Direct, who was able to show us a way to generate some significant savings for our organisation. Gareth was able to offer us a much more competitive rate for our mobile phones which has resulted in some great savings".



What many people do not know, is that Woorinyan is one of the oldest Disability Services in the Southern Region. Established in 1953, Woorinyan provides training support services and employment support services to approximately 173 persons with disabilities in the Frankston area.

As a not-for-profit charitable organisation Woorinyan's support from the community is crucial, in maintaining the high level of quality care it provides for the community. Fundraising Coordinator, Carol Aylett is currently calling on businesses and individuals to assist.

"People in our community are having a tough time right now but none more than Woorinyan in its support of people with disabilities. Government funding does not stretch to the replacement of equipment or vehicles or building maintenance and much more. We rely very heavily upon the support from local business and individuals."

When asked how individuals and businesses in our community can assist, Carol replied "There are four main ways people can assist and every little bit counts!"

- Making a tax deductible donation
- Sponsoring our Newsletter
- Volunteering in our Opportunity Shop
- Leaving a legacy by including Woorinyan in your Will

If you feel that you or your business can help Woorinyan in some way please give Carol Aylett a call.

For the best advice on your business telecommunications, Gareth is willing to assist.

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