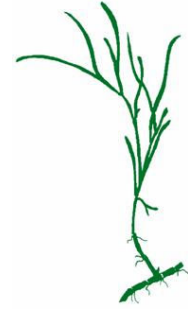


## Western Port Seagrass Partnership Ltd



### Teachers Guide for Use of WSP DVD and Web Site:

#### Introduction:

The WSP has created two new exciting resources for Victorian educators and students. To gain maximum value from these resources we have also provided this teachers guide.

#### The Resources:

##### 1) The “Wonderful Western Port – Cherished and Challenged” DVD:

The DVD contains the following elements:

- “Wonderful Western Port – Cherished and Challenged” a documentary by John Clarke.
- ABC 7:30 Report – Story on Corinella Plantings.
- “Bay in the Balance” – The 1975 documentary made about Western Port at the time of the Western Port Environmental Study, the basis of the Shapiro report that shaped Government policy toward Western Port for many years.
- Three excellent documentaries produced by the Western Port Coordinating Committee covering:
  - Western Port – The Catchment 1981
  - Western Port – The Islands 1981
  - Western Port – The Ecosystem 1981

##### 2) The Western Port Seagrass Partnership Web Site: – [www.seagrass.com.au](http://www.seagrass.com.au)

The web site contains lots of information and provides opportunities to participate in protecting Western Port. Features include:

- Exploring Western Port – Fly over, Suggested Tours, History & Photo Gallery
- Natural Features – Plants, Animals, Physical Features & Environmental Health
- Protecting Western Port – Key Challenges, WSP Activities, How you can help.
- News and Activity Reports.

#### Using this Material in Primary and Secondary Educational Settings:

- Links to Curricula Frame work for (Primary / Secondary)
  - **Science** - Biological Science, Earth Science, Environmental Science, including Plant and Animal Classifications, Physiology and Adaptation, Conservation, Ecosystems and Coastal Processes.
  - **Cross Curricula** – English, History, Aboriginal studies, Outdoor & Environmental Studies, Photography, Multi-media, IT, Discovery learning and fitness activity.
- Suggestions for using the materials
  - Set your students projects based on the material on the DVD and web site covering the ecosystem of Western Port, the animal and plant species, key environmental challenges, the regional history and the special regional features.
  - Show students how to register on the web site to receive a free copy of the DVD

- Show students how they can contribute photos of native animals and plants they find in the region, including how to identify them.
- Interview the old timers from the region about the changes they have noted and present an audio visual summary for inclusion on the WSPSP web site.
- Make short video presentations about various features of Western Port and its catchment for us to feature on the WSPSP web site.
- Suggested Activities
  - Growing mangroves at your school – team up with our Dr Mangrove!
  - Participate in the WSPSP coastal planting day and regional Landcare activities.
  - Start a bird watching group and record the species found in the region, especially the international migratory species. Link with excursions to wetlands, the feeding of the pelicans at San Remo, the massive colonies of shearwaters at Woolamai, and of course the little penguins of Phillip Island.
  - Start an Insect and spider observation group – this is an area of our animal kingdom pretty well neglected and we need to record the regional species. It only takes a camera, a few field guides from the library and away you go!
  - Kayak the northern mangrove coast.
  - Walk the coastal boardwalks and tracks
  - Bicycle around French Island
  - Take your field guides and cameras to various ecosystems around Western Port and record the plant and animal species and ecosystem types you find. Identify them and send them to us to put on our web page.
- Suggested Excursions
  - Dolphin Research Centre at Hastings – book in for their educational sessions.
  - Phillip Island Nature Parks – visit Churchill Island Marine Park, the Koala Park, the Penguin Parade, the Nobbies and Seal Rocks.
  - Mangrove Board Walk Hastings – walk safely amongst the mangroves and seagrasses - as the tide comes in see fish hunt for food at the tides edge.
  - Eroding coastline at Grantville – see what happens when mangroves are removed and how costly seawalls fall apart. Note the old mangrove stumps off the coast.
  - Tide Master Tours – Boat tours of mangroves and coastal areas around Tooradin.
  - Coolart Homestead and Wetlands – includes wetlands, local coastal ecosystems.
  - Visit French Island & National Park – try an eco tour.
  - The Lang Lang Foreshore at low tide – look across the mudflats to French Island, once covered in lush seagrass meadows – note the massive ecosystem changes.
  - Look at the suggested tour guides on our web site.
- Complementary Resource Materials:
  - List of Marine Activities for Teachers and Educators – Parks Victoria

### **Higher Education Settings:**

Whilst the DVD and Web site are excellent general educational resource materials, it is recommended that in higher educational settings such as VCE and University, these be used in conjunction with challenging themes and projects.

The WSPSP has prepared some suggestions for this application on a pdf document which can be downloaded from our web site at [www.seagrass.com.au](http://www.seagrass.com.au)