



13 January 2014

NEW 225 HA VDP ECOLOGICAL RESERVE OPENING FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY

After three years of hard work, one of Victoria's biggest ever ecological restoration initiatives is now complete on the Victorian Desalination Project (VDP) plant site. Those three years have seen the planting of millions of shrubs and trees, the creation of a series of dunes from 1.45 million cubic metres of soil and the installation of eight kilometres of pedestrian, cycling and horse trails

The VDP ecological reserve, the new 225 ha community coastal park surrounding the plant, will be officially opened at 2.00 pm on Sunday 2 February by member for Bass, the Hon Ken Smith.

The Bass Coast community is invited to join in the celebration.

In addition to exploring the reserve's trails and wetlands, and getting up close to some of the Bass Coast's beautiful bird life from the bird hide, Raymond the Snakeman will be on hand to introduce big and little kids to some of the more scaly critters that can be found in the region.

There will be a free sausage sizzle from 11.00am, a special talks program running throughout the day, and the community will also have the opportunity to take a sneak peak at the heart of the plant from the special viewing gallery located in the plant's main building.

Free shuttle buses will run every 15 minutes from the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve between 9.45 am and 2.30pm. Last bus back will leave the reserve at 4.30pm. Bookings are essential as parking will not be available at the ecological reserve on the day.

Seats can be reserved online at <http://www.trybooking.com/EBYH> or by calling the VDP community contact line on 1800 811 214.

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For further information:

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