



# COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station

Home of the National Centre for Coasts, Environment and Climate

June 2021



# COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT

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## 1. Introduction

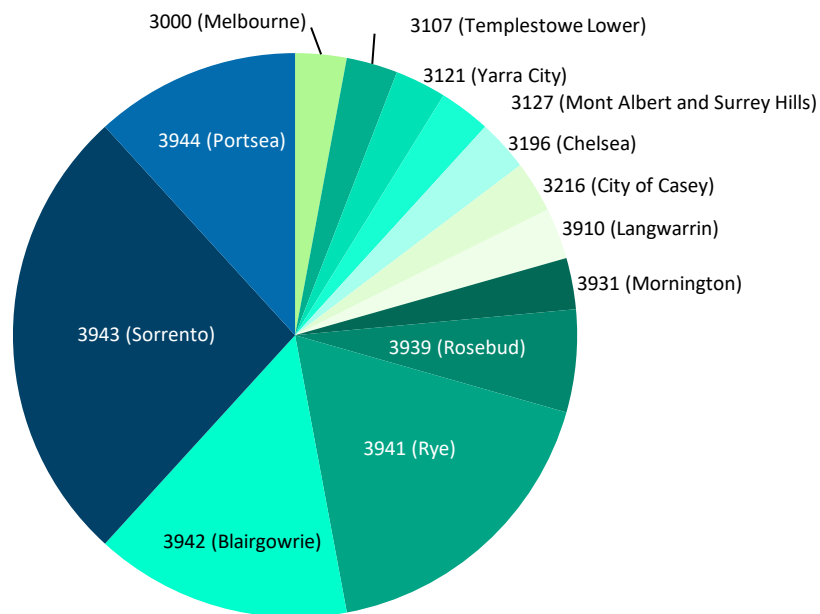
The [University of Melbourne](#) and [Monash University](#) have commenced work to establish a proposed research and education field station within the Quarantine Station precinct at Point Nepean, following consultation and discussions with Parks Victoria, and through a financial grant from the Commonwealth Government to develop a home for the National Centre for Coasts, Environment and Climate (NCCEC).

To support this, the Universities conducted a survey of the Point Nepean community and interested parties to capture feedback on the most important considerations about the proposed education and research facility at Point Nepean. These responses will inform and contribute to the business plan development, and support future planning if the field station business plan is approved.

## 2. Methodology

The survey was released online from 4 March 2021 and closed 9 April 2021. Promotion of the survey was conducted via a physical presence at the Portsea Craft Markets in March 2021, via email promotion to mailing list subscribers and stakeholders, through local newspaper advertising and the distribution of flyers via local businesses. Please see Appendix 1, pg.7 for the survey content and questions.

Respondent Demographics (Place of Residence by Postcode, n=35)

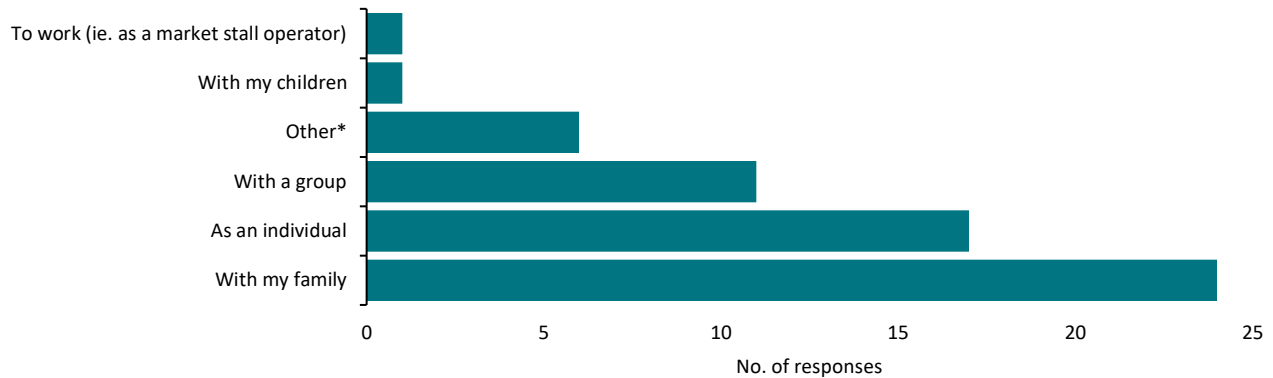


### 3. Overview of Survey Responses

Eighty-five (85) community members responded to the survey with an overall completion rate of 78%, representing a high level of engagement with the project. The average time to complete the survey was approximately six minutes.

- 28% of respondents visit the Point Nepean National Park with family, followed by those who visit as individuals (20%) or with a group (13%).

*When you visit the Point Nepean National Park do you usually visit:  
(n=60)*

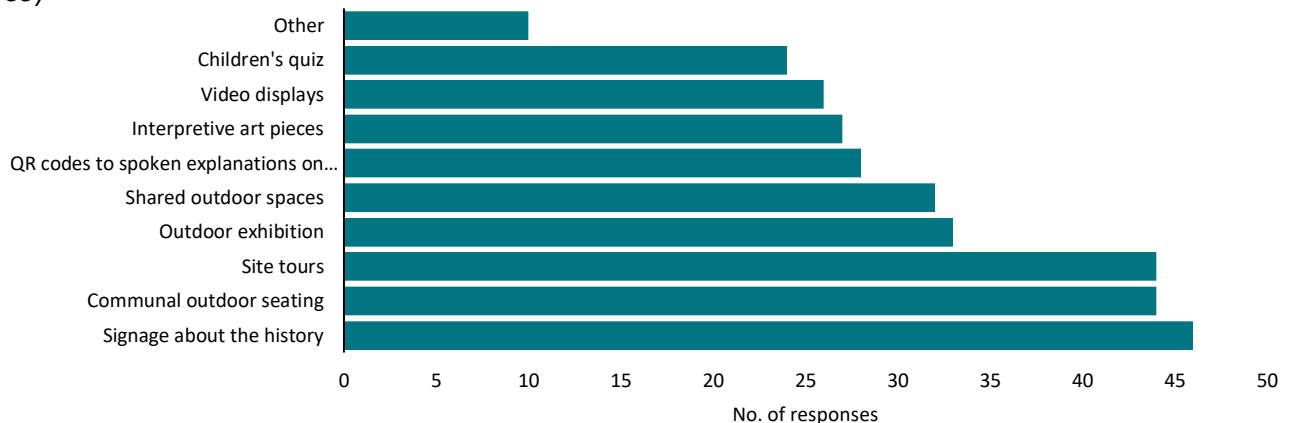


\*Text responses indicated these respondents are predominantly volunteers with Friends of Point Nepean and the National Park

- Respondents would like to enjoy and engage with the proposed field station by viewing signage about the history of the site (54%), making use of communal outdoor seating (52%) and via site tours (54%).

*The proposed field station will have facilities for education and research, but also create opportunities for community engagement and enjoyment. What would be an enjoyable and effective way to engage with the field station and precinct?*

(n=59)



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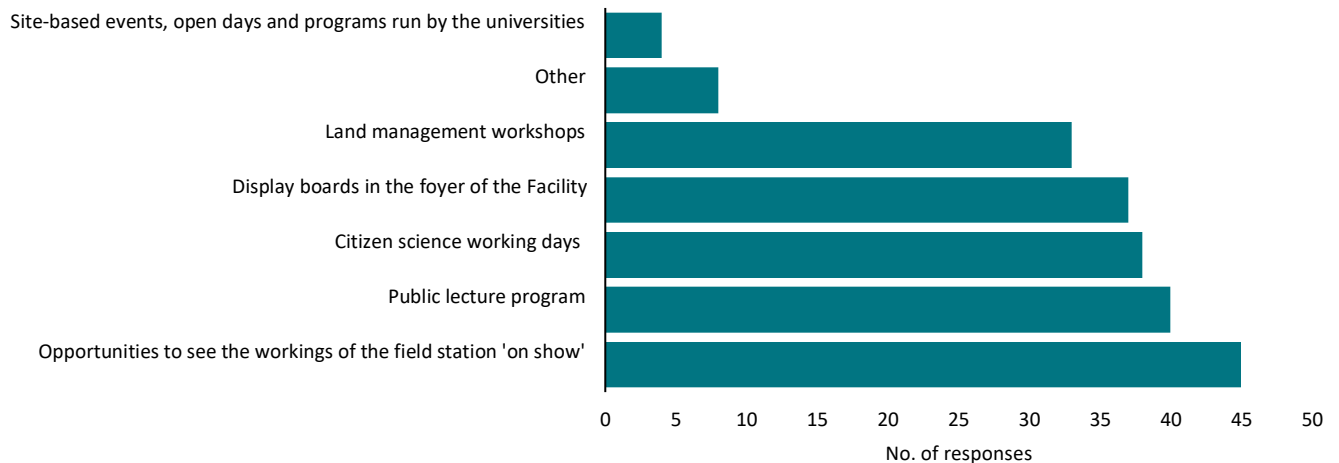
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- Respondents are interested in learning from and engaging with the outcomes of research projects conducted at the field station through opportunities to see how the field station works and the research being undertaken there (54%), public lecture programs (47%), citizen science working days (45%) and information display boards (44%).

*Research projects undertaken at the field station will vary from observations to pilot projects on topics such as marine and terrestrial environments, Indigenous knowledge, culture and land management, climate change, restoration and conservation. How would you like to learn and engage with this research?*

(n=60)



## 4. General feedback

The feedback received and sentiment expressed by respondents was generally positive. Surveyed respondents are clearly engaged and enthusiastic about the potential of the research and education field station yet mindful that there are key considerations for a proposed development in this significant site. The following insights have been drawn from text responses provided by survey respondents.

a. The field station should carefully balance access and impact to the site:

- Community access to the quarantine site should be maintained, while mindful not to impact the site with increased visitation or damage to the surrounding built or natural environment.

b. Redevelopment of existing buildings is a preferred approach:

- Redevelopment is a preference, but if new buildings are proposed, they must complement surrounds.

c. Community opportunities to engage with the field station should be a high priority:

- This may include informing aspects of the design, through public events, learning opportunities, collaboration in research and data-gathering.

d. The field station should play an education role with broad appeal:

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- Broad appeal meaning both in terms of a range of audiences, and also the range of environmental education opportunities to balance with pre- and post-settlement histories.

### e. Local community and 'visitors'

- Some respondents prefer the project not to use the term 'visitor' when referring to 'local community users', reflective of their sentiment that the precinct is a shared community asset that they are a part of, not just a visitor to it.

## 5. Response to feedback

The survey results indicate that there is a strong desire by respondents to be both informed and involved with the field station's progress, because of the importance of the Point Nepean site to many communities. The proposed development is still subject to the approval of the business plan. The Universities intend to keep communities informed about the progress of the field station and any opportunities to share their views by aligning its engagement to the following priorities developed in response to survey feedback:

### Priority 1: Taking on feedback to inform design

The Universities understand sentiments about the need for the proposed field station to be sensitive to its environment and cultural heritage. The design team will be working to progress a concept that:

- Aligns with and respects the [Point Nepean National Park Master Plan](#) (Parks Victoria, 2017)
- Provides for flexible spaces for teaching and learning, research and community engagement
- Repurposes the existing heritage building Badcoe Hall, preserving the external façade
- Ensure a new building to house the facilities unable to be accommodated inside Badcoe Hall;
  - Is of a size, position and height that blends with its surrounding environment.
  - Will be designed in keeping with the sustainability aspirations of the Point Nepean National Park Masterplan 2017 and will target a [5 Star Green Star Rating](#).
  - Has least possible impact on the site's surrounding built form and natural bushland.

### Priority 2: Keeping the community informed

Information about the progress of the business plan, the stage of design and build, and the future operational and research functions will be made accessible to interested members online at the dedicated field station website, <https://www.pointnepeanfieldstation.org.au/>. Other methods such as mailing list newsletters, surveys, information sessions or activities will also form part of engagement activities.

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### Priority 3: Involving the community

Opportunities to involve the community will be further explored and aligned with key design and project development milestones. These may include opportunities for the community to:

- Contribute their ideas and knowledge to developing signage, wayfinding and 'curation' of the park's multi-layered history
- Provide feedback on aspects of the field station design, particularly on how the design can respect its environment and surroundings
- Explore the types of the workshops, short-courses, open days and other activities that may be possible at the proposed field station, including collaborating with existing local environment and heritage groups.

For more information or to contact us:

Visit our website at [pointnepeanfieldstation.org.au](http://pointnepeanfieldstation.org.au) where you can sign up to join the Project [mailing list](#) for updates or [contact us](#) via our online enquiries form.

## Appendix 1 - Survey content and questions

### **Proposed Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station | Community Survey**

The University of Melbourne and Monash University have commenced work on a business case to support a proposed world-renowned research and education field station within the Quarantine Station precinct at Point Nepean, following consultation and discussions with Parks Victoria, and with financial support from the Federal Government.

To support this, we are inviting the Point Nepean community and interested parties to participate in the following survey.

The purpose of this survey is to capture your feedback and thoughts on what's most important to you about the proposed education and research facility at Point Nepean. This will inform and contribute to the business case planning and development.

This survey will take approximately seven minutes to complete. Answers will remain anonymous.

#### **About the proposed field station**

The Field Station, to be jointly operated by the two universities, would be an interdisciplinary science research and education facility focused on coastal environments, climate change, history and culture, the arts and community engagement.

Potential focus areas include research into dune management, coastal erosion and inundation, marine ecosystem preservation, pollution control, biodiversity conservation to provide opportunities to secure threatened flora and fauna, habitat restoration and management of Indigenous and settler heritage sites at risk of sea-level rise.

#### **The project as part of the Point Nepean National Park Master Plan**

This project is just one aspect of the activity proposed in the [Point Nepean National Park Master Plan 2017](#) and supports the vision and community perspectives expressed as part of the Master Plan consultation.

Aligned with the community sentiment expressed as part of Master Plan, this project recognises the importance the site represents for research, education, engagement and cultural uses, as well as for activities drawing connections to the site's Indigenous and colonial history.

#### **Privacy Statement**

The information you provide will be used by authorised University of Melbourne and Monash University staff for the purpose for which it was collected. It will not be transferred outside Australia unless to an entity operating under equivalent privacy obligations. For the purposes of this survey, we will retain your personal information only for as long as required for the purpose it was collected and in accordance with our legislative obligations. This information is then securely destroyed in accordance with the Universities' retention and disposal authorities.

[Click here](#) to access Monash University's Retention and Disposal Authority

[Click here](#) to access University of Melbourne's Retention and Disposal Authority

## Survey Questions

1) What postcode do you live within?

[Number comment box]

2) I am visiting the park today as:

- An individual
- With a group
- With my family
- With my children
- A market stall operator
- A visitor to the market
- A visitor to other areas of the National Park
- Other (comment box)

[Tick all that apply]

3) The proposed field station will have facilities for education and research, but also create opportunities for community engagement and enjoyment. What would be an enjoyable and effective way to engage with the field station and precinct?

- Communal outdoor seating
- Signage about the history
- QR codes to spoken explanations on your phone
- Children's quiz
- Video displays
- Outdoor exhibition
- Interpretive art pieces
- Site tours
- Shared indoor spaces?
- Other (comment box)

[Tick box, multiple answers allowed]

4) Research projects undertaken at the field station will vary from observations to pilot projects on topics such as marine and terrestrial environments, indigenous knowledge, culture and land management, climate change, restoration and conservation.



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How would you like to learn and engage with this research?

- Display boards in the foyer of the Facility
- Opportunities to see the workings of the field station 'on show'
- Public lecture program
- Land management workshops
- Citizen science working days
- Site-based events, open days and programs run by the Universities
- Other (comment box)

[Tick box]

- 5) The Universities recognise the immense privilege the proposed field station presents to operate in Point Nepean National Park and are committed to working alongside the community to ensure it is afforded the respect it deserves.

What would you see as the best ways in which the Universities could positively contribute to the Point Nepean visitor experience?

[Comment box]