



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

(VICTORIAN DIVISION INC.) ABN 59 485 457 115

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria

7 June 2016

## Media Release

### Phillip Island penguin viewing platform wins World Environment Day Award

A new viewing platform making Victoria's Phillip Island penguin parade even more spectacular has been awarded a 2016 UN Association World Environment Day Infrastructure Innovation Award.

The platform – a joint venture between the Phillip Island Nature Park and the RACV - has been designed to mirror the coves of the coastline and offer unprecedented, up-close viewing of the penguin parade.

The Phillip Island Nature Park is one of 12 Australian organisations and individuals named as winners of the national World Environment Day Awards, which are designed to celebrate the innovation and creativity of Australian organisations and individuals and encourage others to take positive action.

Running since 2000, more than 40 schools, journalists, local councils, environmental organisations and individuals were finalists in this year's awards.

The United Nations Association of Australia is one of 100 associations around the world which promote the ideals and work of the UN in local communities.

Judges of the Infrastructure Innovation Award were impressed by the attention to detail and by the clear demonstration of the benefits of the partnership between Phillip Island Nature Parks and RACV.

The use of simple local technologies, Australian Class 1 timbers and a considered design approach, they said, had culminated in a beautiful piece of infrastructure which protects the fairy penguin population while educating visitors about the importance of a delicate and biodiverse habitat.

The project allows visitors to observe the delicate sand dune ecology without impacting the mobility of the fairy penguin community and importantly without impacting on their underground burrows and habitat.

For more information, contact: Maggie Smythe, UNAAV Program Coordinator, (03) 9620 3955/0419 157 060 or [maggie@unaavictoria.org.au](mailto:maggie@unaavictoria.org.au)