

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts Point



Visit <http://www.marinecare.org.au>

Issue 41 - August 2015

NATSCIWEEK

MESAC Inc is a committee formed by MCRP and The BYC to see if it is feasible for us to create a combined yacht and water sports club, and marine education centre, on the current yacht club site.

As a backdrop to the project considerations MESAC also seeks to run a series of public environmental education events. The largest of these events to date is our participation in the Federal Governments National Science Week celebrations during August 2015

MESAC created a nine day programme running 15th to 23rd August, which was a great success, with some 450 adults and 300 children attending.

We presented to two school groups of some 100 children each.



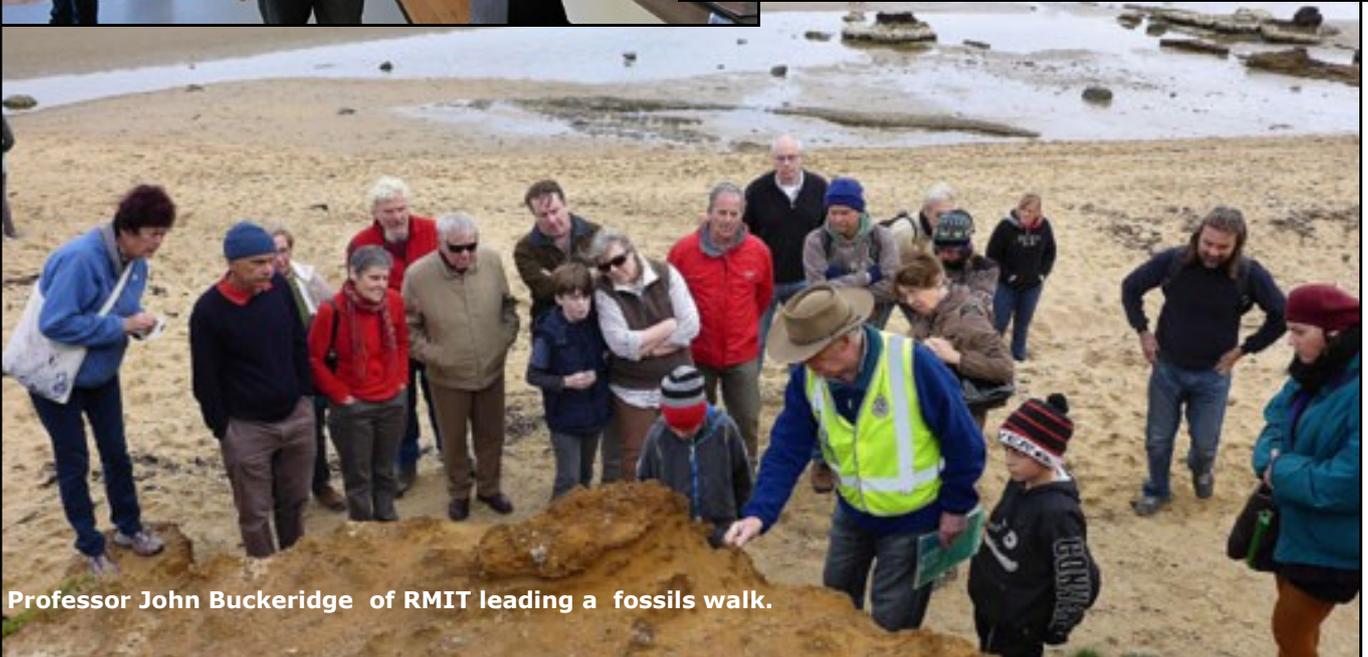
The main lecture hall.

National Science Week (2)

The display room was of great value and many other interests were well represented here.



Murray Orr and his excellent display of fossils.



Professor John Buckeridge of RMIT leading a fossils walk.



This event took 5 months of planning. We were supported during the nine days by 19 quality speakers from around the state. The valuable domestic support of some 24 volunteers from both MCRP and the BYC, was greatly valued. Gould league supported the programme and ran five sessions.

New Bayside Works



Work begun. The rocks will be aligned and cemented. There is a student project in the making here with a rare chance to assess a marine re-colonisation process.



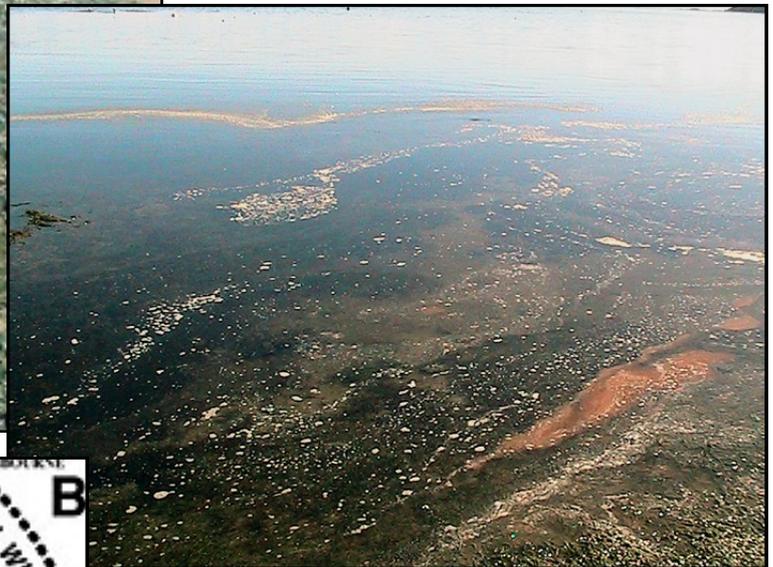
Also here, a July 1st image of one of the two new beach retaining groynes being built at Brighton just south of Green Point.

There is always a lot of dispute re groynes, but it seems things would be lot worse along our inner city beaches without them.

Nairm Notes



A rare sighting on the 17th August. This red bloom comes from a dino flagellate, known as *Noctiluca sp.* Its is actually a small creature that is not quite an animal! They look like this and are very tiny indeed. Our local ones are usually coloured red and look like an oily spill of water coloured paint in the shallows. It takes very special conditions for them to appear. They are considered to be toxic to small fish, but, on the bright side, we are also told that they luminesce brightly at night. Next time you see such along our foreshore, do come back that night if its still there and let us all know if they do glow brightly in the dark.



And above, a rare opportunity to see how the Bay looked after a sand bank built up at the heads for about a 2000 years and then breached around 1000 years ago, bringing local chaos. These details from The NATSCI week lecture from Dr Gary Holdgate. The bay had diminished to a lake near the heads, described as Lake Phillip on the map .

Inaugural MCRP Photo Competition—2015

Our first photo completion had about 50 entries. The public at large voted during National Science Week, and the four winners ar shown here.

Given the high level of interest we may repeat this event annually.

It took a lot of time and effort from Kim Wright [with the support of Peter Detrick] to set this exhibition up.

Our Bayside Mayor, Felicity Frederico was so impressed that she asked for all entries to be given to Council for its archives.



Kim Croker



David Reinhard



Ray Lewis



Mel Mitchell

The winners and runners up were:

Landscape: Mel Mitchell—Fran Detrick

Seascape: Dave Reinhard– Ray Lewis

Sea Creature: Ray Lewis—Phil Watson

Sea Birds: Kim Croker—Susan Carden

The originals present much better than these Computer sized reproductions and copies are available for sale.

Changes at the Port Phillip Eco Centre



The Port Phillip EcoCentre Committee of Management has appointed a new Chief Executive Officer.

April Seymore joined the EcoCentre as a garden volunteer in 2009 and is currently the Education Manager. She succeeds Neil Blake OAM in the position of CEO.



Over the past few years, April has been leading the Education Team and inspiring environmental leadership in schools and the community.

She is looking forward to continuing the EcoCentre's important work in building partnerships to create positive environmental change.

"Neil is well-respected and well-connected. I'm excited to build on his leadership and bring my own connections with local youth and families into EcoCentre research and action programs," April says. "Our skilful Committee and staff have created a clear and positive direction through our new three-year Strategic Plan, to be officially launched at our Annual General Meeting."

April holds a *summa cum laude* BA in Media and Cultural Communications from Hollins University and University College London. She has extensive international experience in education, arts and sustainability programs.

Neil will remain with the EcoCentre to expand his role as Port Phillip Baykeeper, advocating and educating for the protection of Port Phillip Bay and its catchments. His coastal management leadership grew from his commencing role as a St Kilda Park Ranger in 1985.

In 2005, Neil was awarded the Order of Australia for his tireless service to the community and environment. In 2014 Neil was awarded the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award from the Victorian Coastal Council and his Cleaner Yarra and Bay project won the Victorian Premier's Recognition Award. His vision, experience and commitment to the community have transformed the EcoCentre into a flourishing and influential hub with 23 affiliated organisations.

Neil Blake OAM is the Port Phillip Baykeeper and has been Director of the Port Phillip EcoCentre since its incorporation in 1999. Neil says, "April's smarts and creative leadership have nurtured outstanding growth of the EcoCentre's education program. I'm very excited to be handing the EcoCentre in such good shape to the next generation."

Whale sightings are on the increase :-)

There is a new initiative to gather and share information re whales visiting Port Phillip and Western Port, and the open coast areas between Barwon Heads and Inverloch. This project is an initiative developed in part by Sue Mason and David Donnelly, who will be both well known to many of us as some of Victoria's leading cetacean investigators.

Please support this project by posting images and data on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/twobayswhales> and / or using the call in numbers included in the flier.



For whale sightings across Victoria including the bays, Mandy Watson in Warrnambool is also keen to hear of sightings and maintains a record of whales seen across the state.

Please ensure that your reports continue to be sent to her at Mandy.Watson@delwp.vic.gov.au

Also some The primary contact numbers for reporting sightings are:

Westernport, Phillip Island and the Bass Coast - 0487 745 066 **Barwon Coast to Flinders, including Port Phillip** - 0438 399 676

There is also a Facebook page where sightings may be lodged via a message. The page will also provide weekly updates on whale sightings and other related news.

<https://www.facebook.com/twobayswhales> We look forward to your involvement and support.

Marine Care

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Find out more about MCRP.

Go to our website .
www.marinecare.org.au

EDITORS NOTE

Click here for Tim Flannery's recent call to action re the health of Port Phillip Bay <http://bit.ly/1HtAcTu>

And here also, a link to that iconic beachfront café and coffee shop the Sandy Beach HQ. <http://sandybeachhq.com.au/the-history-of-sandy-beach-hq-and-kiosk/>



As part of our slowly emerging Citizen Science regime, we are supporting (TNC) The Nature Conservancy in their most valued project to recover the Bay's lost oyster and mussel beds.

At Ricketts we have taken on a design and test role in the capture of mussel 'spats' for their re-seeding in appropriate locations.



The image on the left shows a recent design for a collection plate, that Kim Wright is about to test.

There are many factors to consider apart from the many scientific ones, and one is just how do we repopulate mussels which are so heavily predated upon by our 11 armed stars?

Once things get out of balance it's sometime hard to get a diminished population back to levels that can withstand predation...

Speakers at the National Science Week events we ran, highlighted the tangible contributions we Citizen Scientists can make, and MCRP is active in this regard.

As a further example, a young MCRP member, Flossie Sperring, has just competed a paper, [with our support], on the daily movement of limpets on the boat ramps at Half Moon Bay.

Well that's it for this Winter Edition. If you know of anyone who would wish to be included in our mailers do let the editor know as we have a supplementary list.

.... Next issue likely October 2015