

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts Point



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Issue 50 November 2016

Underwater, Life Can Be Beautiful



This wonderful image of a Leafy Sea Dragon, ©Tim Forster, should encourage every one of our divers and snorkelers to get into marine photography. The photo is simply too good to be reduced and commented on anywhere else in this mailer! For those of you who would like to try some uw photography, we do have an MCRP camera you can borrow. [We may well run another *Introduction to UW Photography* event later this year]. Marine photography has become an indispensable part of our local species recognition skills set, and with so many really good MCRP photographers now, we mounted a 2015 photo exhibition, and also created our first *MERFEST* photo/video event at our last AGM, in February 2016

First Early Season Snorkel at Table Rock

While the scuba tribe have been at it in their dry suits and more, it has been a rotten season for snorkelers. Fortunately we were finally gifted with good Saturday, preceded by no heavy rain the day before, and we went in at Table Rock on Saturday the 29th November. There were a few mutters about the cold water, (around 14 c), but no-one wanted to wuss out. In the end we had 10 of us attend for 1 hr for some, to 1.5 hrs for others. It turned out to be one of the truly nicest snorkels and happy times, one could ask for.



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Above left: part of the rock face from the water, above: Maddy Heath with a rare potato sponge, and left: David Langmead, Dave Morley and Cath Walker acclimatizing to the cold water before heading out.



Everything looked in great condition, and color was rampant, as this 11 armed star shows.

Most of us had never seen so many smooth rays. Every ledge had one or more sitting quietly

Nemm Notes



Well it seems that the PJ's are back early. In the first week of September, Phil Watson took this excellent image of one young male, [part of a group of six], just west of the Tea House Reef. Water temperature was 13c. In passing, this temperature is quite OK [if you have a 5 ml suit and a vest], to think about getting back into

Image from Susan Carden



These are a plague of Northern Pacific Stars at Brighton in August. With our ever flowing water in the sanctuary we seem to be generally immune from such

We haven't seen the tide as high as the top sandbags for a long time as during September, and such generally higher tides continue during October. We have lost about 0.5 metres of sand since our last peak, and that equates to around 250 cubic metres gone between the ramp and the Tea House. No doubt it will be back again over



If you haven't been down to the sanctuary recently, keep your eye out for these new signs kindly put up by Council. Those of us who tip-toe through the undergrowth, usually see a Red Bellied Black Snake or two over summer. We had one sunbasking on the path in front of the Tea House two seasons back. Another good reason not to let little kids frolic in the saltbush!

Community Volunteer Action is Forever Needed



With less than a weeks public notice, the Victorian School Building Authority belatedly advised that it would be cutting down some 220 mature native trees, on the site of the new Beaumaris High School. No adequate reasons were given. Our community galvanised, and plenty of publicity and a protest attended by around 250 of us, on the site at 6.30 am on the day, caused the Dept to revise this, to only removing those trees that would be under the build footprint.



This was a timely reminder of what the local environment faces with population pressures and remote bureaucracies taking decisions without consultation with stakeholders.

Being there was like attending an informal AGM for we tree huggers.

As you can see here, the next generation of Baysiders are also being well conditioned!

The Sanctuary

The Melbourne Seaquarium staff organised to support a beach clean up with us. They picked a day that turned out to be one of high tides and bleak cold winds. That said, the clean up was very successful, in the amount of plastics removed, and their support in November and another planned for December is most valued.



The children of our visitors had a most adventurous day too. This visit was a reminder that Corporate volunteering (to everyone's benefit) is becoming a common event, and that we should think about supporting such exercises on perhaps a broader front.



No need to visit the National Gallery in Canberra to see Jackson Pollocks 'Blue Poles' when we have our own with many high tides. This image taken on the 7th November on the Tea House Beach.

Marine Care Ricketts Point

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Find out more about MCRP.

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

Correction, issue number 49. Pied
Oystercatchers not Pied Cormorants

Check out the free app - Snap Send
Solve. You can use it to automatically
report incidents to the correct local au-
thority quickly and easily! Visit [Snap
Send Solve](#) for more details.



EDITORS NOTE

This mailer is a small milestone for MCRP, in that it is our 50th issue. Circulation now to two or three states, and two or three countries.

Our guest speaker for October Kade Mills of the VNPA, was very well received indeed. He spoke of the oyster and mussels reclamation projects around the Bay. We are playing our part as Citizen Scientists and more, with Kim Wright [supported by Peter Dedrick], being the designer of a spat collection system, now being tried out elsewhere as well as in the Sanctuary.



Kade Mills our guest speaker, and Sally Martin, a new member, after Kade's presentation at our October members meeting in the BLSC.

Left Maddy reading the paper at table 20 in the Tea House.

.... Next issue likely December 2016