

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts Point



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

Issue 53 date April 2017

The Condition of Our Sanctuary



The algae in the Sanctuary seems to be the best it has been since the Sanctuary was declared in 2002. Fish numbers are up, [although they vary seasonally], and size seems to be increasing. Many of the big fish seem to be becoming indifferent to our presence in the water, (especially the Dusky Morwongs and Banjo's), and this makes for great snorkeling and diving.

We do have ongoing issues with a very few dog owners ,(one set her dog on to resting Pelicans opposite the Tea House—we have video), and some faecal contamination on the beach. Getting any useful response from the various authorities, is still proving to be very difficult. We also have sometime spear fishing at the McGregors Rock and Table Rock ends of the Sanctuary.

All in all however, after some 15 years, things are still on a noticeable uptrend.

Another Successful Marine Art Show



Our second annual marine art show was a great success and with what learned from our first show, this time we broke even without any external support. We had 50+ artists and some 300 or more visitors over the weekend.

MCRP are founding member of MESAC who ran the event out of the Beaumaris Yacht Club.

Left to right the organising committee, Virginia Mosk (Event Manager) , Betty Knight, Betty Lewis, Di Pearce and Ray Lewis. Karen Hopkins absent.

Nemm Notes

Shark just metres from suburban swimmers

SWIMMERS were forced to flee a packed bayside beach yesterday after a shark was spotted metres from the foreshore.

Beach-goers at Hampton got the fright of their lives after noticing what's believed to be a mako shark cruising close to

swimmers about 3pm. It's believed a nippers carnival was held at the beach just a few hours before the shark was seen.

Rachel Elliot said the shark was swimming near her son, who was in a kayak.

"A friend's son was yelling,

'hey there's a shark, there's a shark.'" she said.

"The shark was swimming between my husband and my son, I couldn't believe it."

Mrs Elliot said her husband alerted Hampton lifesavers and they were quick to clear the beach.



The shark yesterday.

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We love a scare, but this poor old Blue Shark wasn't too well. He made the evening TV and papers though...It perhaps indicates just how generally safe the Bay is, from larger predators, when we can get excited about this one...

Left an urchin from the Westernport adventure mentioned elsewhere in this mailer. We don't seem to get such here in the Bay, being limited it seems to the barrens forming, Purple Urchin .

Eclectic (1)



In late February we were all offered places on the Pelican for a day out doing citsci in Westernport. Ray, Jinty, Susan, Peter Fran and Ray went along for a great day.



Susan, Jinty and friends, doing a survey under Parks Victoria's direction



The great turn out of MCRP Members for the Australia Day Clean up held at the same time as the Catamaran CitSci excursion

The Sanctuary

From Jack 2, Baby Leather Jackets living inside *Cactostylus mosaicus* (Blue Blubber Jelly)



Left a very relaxed decorator crab and **above**, a Violet Snail from Emma Royer. If you want to see such for yourself come along [for an introductory snorkel](#) in the sanctuary shallows.

To the right a sign that appeared in February in front of the Tea House, and one we would wish to never see again.

We all, as sanctuary carers, need to be vigilant to identify and seek remediation of all threats to this wonderful piece of water, that is so available to everyone, and which will come under increasing pressure in the years ahead.



Eclectic (2)



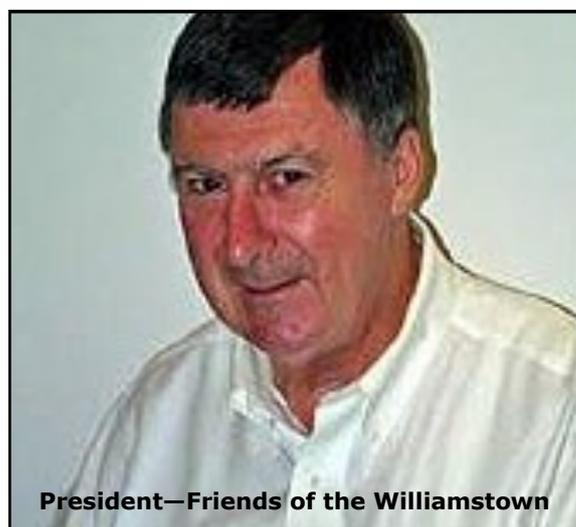
A splendid image of a rare stormy day at Ricketts, during this summer— from Di Whaley



Image Peter Dedrick

Look closely at this image of current erosion under beach huts at Mt Martha. Apparently they cannot be saved. (Perhaps being a cautionary tale to other areas around the Bay).

The lesson for our Bay Councils is, to be proactive and do what we can early!



President—Friends of the Williamstown

At our March Meeting, Ian Rae, who is an Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne, spoke to us about the role of local Care Groups in supporting the Williamstown Wetlands Litter Project.

Marine Care Ricketts Point

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Find out more about MCRP.

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www.marinecare.org.au

EDITORS NOTE

Thanks to Peter Dedrick's efforts, we can now advise that Parks Victoria have installed the 5 knot signs on the boundary marks/ piles that make up the seaward boundary of Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

Unfortunately, these were studiously ignored a week later by at least one batch of speeding jet skiers. They flew through an area that we regularly snorkel, just off the Tea House Reef.

One day perhaps, we will have one central number to call regarding sanctuary transgressions, which will alert the appropriate authority, and who will then respond in a timely manner.

<http://www.bay-keeper.com/> is a URL you may not have heard of. It is our Baykeeper Neil Blake's, web page. It is worth a look.

Neil works out of the St Kilda Eco centre and is well known to many of us for his tireless commitment to the Bays well being.

Books two and three in the Urban Sanctuary series will be out in mid April. *The Fossils of the Urban Sanctuary*, and *Birds of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary*.

Members will be able to get copies of the bird book via MCRP at a discounted price. Others should be able to buy such at the Beaumaris Book Shop in the Concourse.

The fourth book on the Sanctuary's Plants and Insects is in train, but a final draft will be a year away.



A really nice way to end this mailer.
A 'Fairy' Penguin chick, taken very locally, by Susan Carden.

.... Next issue likely June 2017