

# MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLET



Marine Care Ricketts Point



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

**Issue No 60—June 2018**

## Our Citizen Science Alive and Well

Our citizen science activities continue to evolve. Apart from our local role in the Bay wide sea slug survey (see later page), we were also an integral part of the major program seeking to recover oysters in the bay. As mentioned in earlier editions, the oyster spat collector plates shown here, were designed by Kim Wright and Peter Dedrick.



Image Peter Dedrick



**Above** Kade Mills analysing oyster spat data. Left A.J. [as he is known], collecting the plates on the sanctuary boundary.

**Right.** A Parks Vic project. A local reef life survey, and far right Emily Verey, our local Parks Ranger taking the session.



Images Virginia Mosk



# Erosion Works and More



Works have begun to save erosion from undercutting Beach Rd, just across from Central avenue at Quiet Corner.

A comprehensive programme of special 'nails', re sloping, bagging and more, should give us many years of respite here. Such changes will re-use existing sand at the site, and be largely indistinguishable later.

Bob Whiteway, Ray Lewis and a rep from the BCS were all kindly pre-briefed mid last year.

If predicted sea rises are proven to be correct such works will be a common site for those to come.



## Right: Adrian Robb CEO of Bayside Council.

Adrian has retired from Council after seven years of significant contribution to the best interests of Baysiders.

While many will not know him, his commitment to our marine environmental assets and more, was amply demonstrated by three gifts given to him by his fellow council officers at a farewell on Friday 6th April. They included two large framed prints of Brighton Beach and Half Moon Bay, and a copy of our local book, *Zen and the Art of Beachwalking*.



Another successful beach clean up in May. Findings by the 30 attendees, were 38 Kilos of waste, including 690 cigarette butts, and at least 100 plastic straws, as well as the usual 'suspects'. Our thanks to Hazel for her continuing leadership contribution here.

# The First Great Sea Slug Census April 2018



Ivan and Susan



Dave, Toni, Claudia and Ar Len

On a miserable looking cold morning, we were very pleased to have all registrants (12) turn up for the first ever Melbourne Sea Slug Census.

Toni Roberts, Ivan Leong, Kim Wright and David Reinhard made slug sightings.

All in all a very minimal outcome with two *Ceratsoma brevicuadatum* (left) and one *Phyllodesium* sp. (right) our total...



## The overall stats for the day were:

12 volunteers in the water. ( 2 scuba, 10 snorkel

15 man hours spent searching both shallows and up to 4 metres.

Weather overcast, still seas, viz good, water temp about 16.

Area covered from off South Triangle Reef north to the BYC.



Image Peter :Lamshed

And a rare find from Ivan Leong a few days later, *Philinopsis taronga*

# Eclectic Sights from Underwater



**Left** some of our local corals, and **below** the resident Blairgowrie Maori Octopus. Seen so regularly now that no-one bothers too much with him or her. Unfortunately they usually live less than 5 years.



Image Chris Forbes

**Left,** a nice little Blennie taken during the sea slug survey.



Image Wayne Martin

**Left** some hydroids, and below a rare live murex found in the Sanctuary by John Eichler.



# The Sanctuary



The storms in mid April left a trail of damage around the Bay and locally. This 'widow maker', as they say, came down on the path beside the Toilet Block near the disabled ramp.

**Below**, is a marker buoy that was driven south from the Brighton Yacht Club, to the tea house beach, during the same storm.

On investigation there were well in excess of a thousand mussels thriving on its anchor ropes. (See a small section of that rope below)

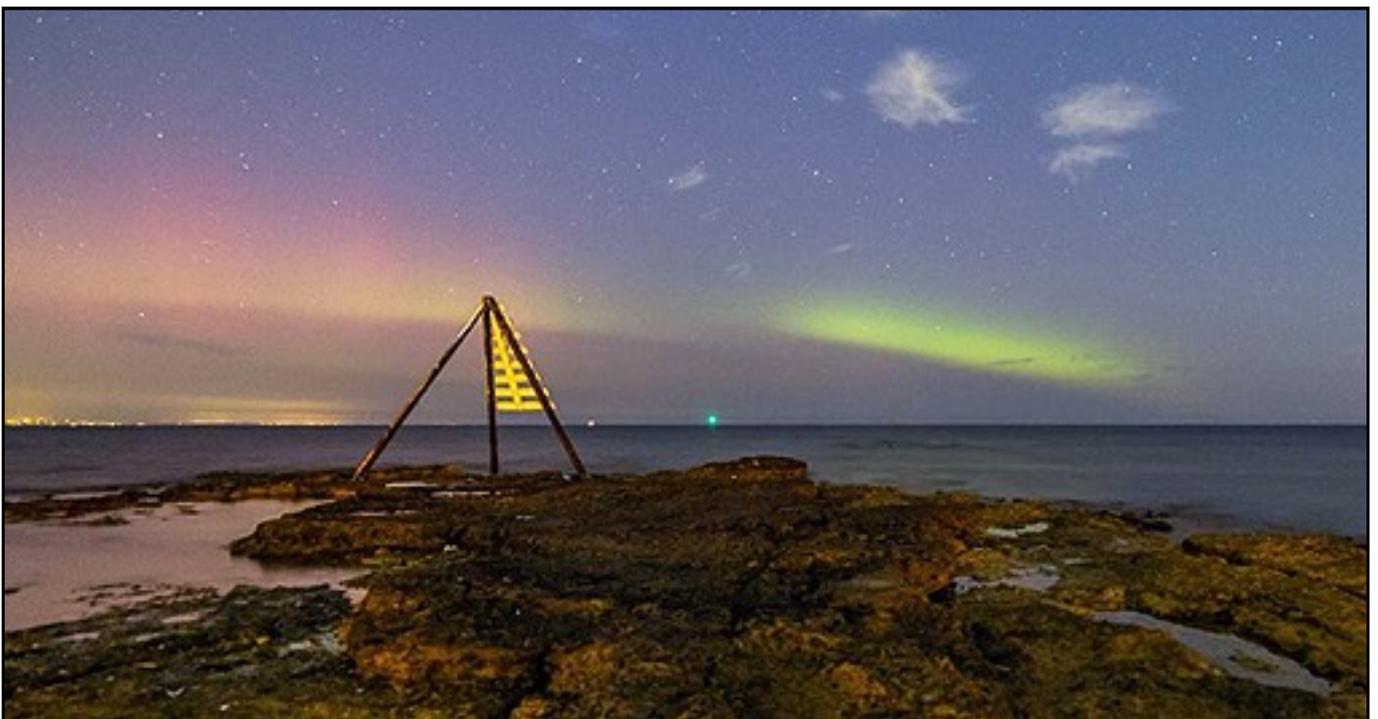
It was an encouraging sign, and on follow up, such a plethora of mussels are currently common around the Bay.



## Members Meeting April



We were fortunate to have the well known environmentalist **Chris Smythe** as guest speaker at our March meeting. Chris talk brought out many questions as he spoke of the evolution of our present and now threatened Marine Parks. Despite the early onset of dark and cold weather with Autumn, the meeting was well attended.



A wonderful sight. Aurora Australis on April 18th, taken from our South Signal Reef by Scott Timlock. Thank you Scott!

# Marine Care Ricketts Point

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Find out more about MCRP.

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[www.marinecare.org.au](http://www.marinecare.org.au)

## EDITORS NOTE

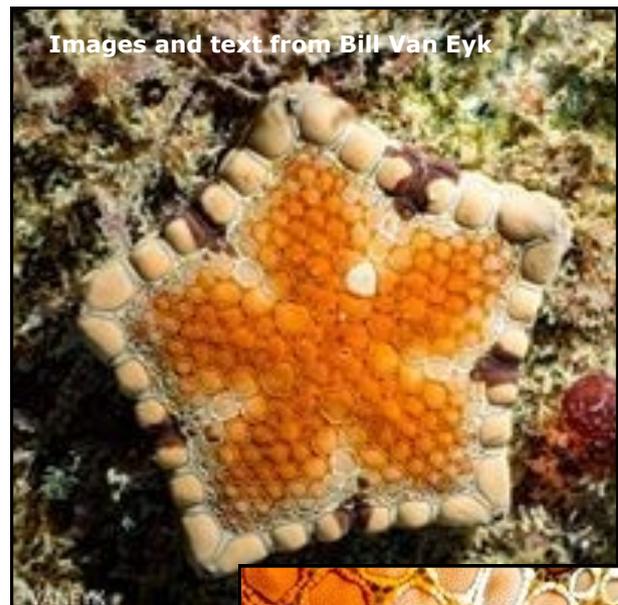
Thanks to people searching, we have now found all of our lost MCRP mailers with the exception of probably number three. It may well have title MCRP3. It was mailed out in May or June 2011. If you are an archivist type, do have a look for that one for me.

This is our 60th issue and somewhat of a milestone for such communications. They form a most substantial record of our growth as an organization and our evolving expertise as a marine care group.

Click here for a Drum Report on the state of our oceans. [One has to act however we can..](#)

Feel free to forward this newsletter, as you may wish

Here are some wonderful mages from the Guardian Newspaper sent to us by Peter Dedrick. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2018/apr/12/unforgettable-underwater-photography-in-pictures> **Below.** See what can happen after a brush with a sea urchin! Part of the barb from a local urchin got stuck in David Reinhard's forearm and after a couple of painful weeks, he ended up needing surgery to have it removed.



Images and text from Bill Van Eyk



Ever wondered what that off centre "thingy" on (biscuit) star is? With a bit of help I recently learned it is called a madreporite /a lightcolored calcareous opening used to filter water into vascular system of echinoderms. It acts like a pressure-equalizing valve and helps it maintain rigidity and able to move with its many tiny "feet"

.... Next issue likely August 2018



*Heliocidaris erythrogramma*