

# MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts Point



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

**Issue No 64 Feb 2018**

## Citizen Science Species Counts

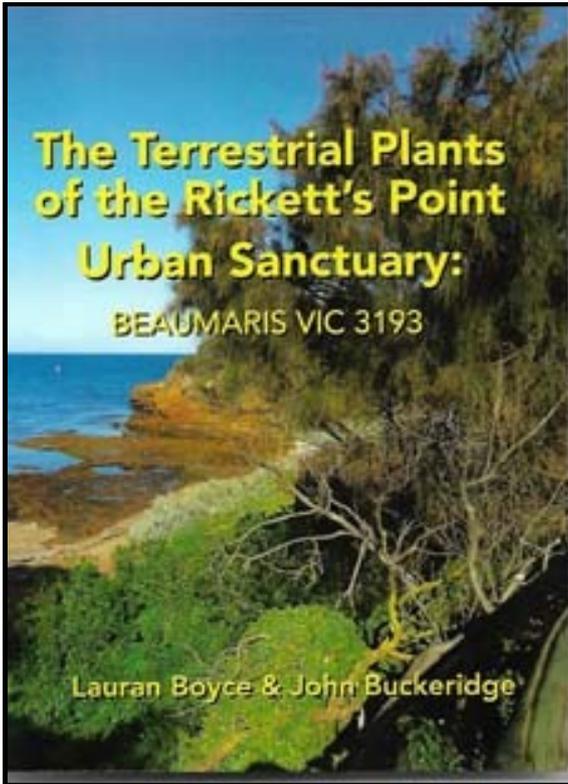


Image Dave Morley

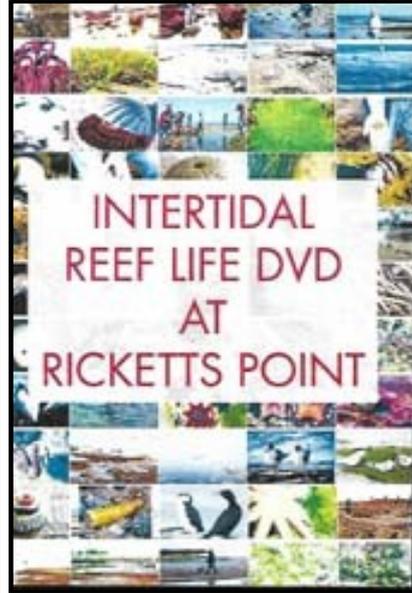
We have now participated in all '**Great Fish Counts**' since their inception. Such events add valuable species benchmarking for Port Phillip Bay. That said, in our part of the Bay we usually seem to see more fish later in the New Year than we do in this November event. The count also gets our snorkeling season going, and is a great way for our newer members to begin species awareness, that adds so much value to the experience of snorkeling.

The '**Great Sea Slug Count**' in January also proved to be a great success, although results here at the top of the Bay were poor. (Nudi's are rather sparser at the top of the Bay, maybe due to more polluted water?) **See the next page** for some wonderful examples of sea slugs found near the Port Phillip Heads during this event.

# This and That



The new Sanctuary book on the foreshore plants, is the 4th in the series, and reprints are most unlikely There are a few residual copies of the set to date, still about, should anyone wish to [purchase them](#). The other are the Urban Sanctuary Invertebrates, the Urban Sanctuary Birds, and the Fossils of the Urban Sanctu-



**Coming soon too**, this very new video on our intertidal reef life. It should be a most useful addition to anyone meandering the reefs at low tide, and also those who may seek to take school tours, or Rock Pool Rambles.

A further comprehensive triplet DVD on local, fossils, geomorphology and amateur fossils collecting, should be available later this year.

**Holding orders can be taken** now, as again production will be limited



Just a few examples of our wonderful sea slugs. Their imagery has become obsessive for some!



# Summer by the Sea

Summer by the Sea on our Ricketts Point beach was the most successful yet with all sessions booked out. Overall project admin from Jill Robinson of BEFN, supported by wide ranging promo and attendance from Phil Weirzbowski of Coastcare, were essential to the success of this month long event. No room here for all events, but some follow.



Ray taking the foreshore cultural heritage walk.



Terry with snorkelling beginners



The professionalism of DDA's disabilities snorkel programme gets better and better



Elizabeth Warren signing people in



Beth Jensen & Jill Robinson - providing essential support services

# Eclectic



A routine snorkelling briefing left ,and what it is beginning to feel like these days when we eventually get into the water! [Actually the pier to pub swim].



Image Amy Stace Smith

Left here, a relative rarity at Ricketts. *Lamarckdromia glubosa*. Better known as the Sponge Crab, [but sans

her camouflaging sponge]. Amy found her on the reef during her SBST event

And here, Haekels Jelly with attendant leatherjacket from Matt Testoni (Hard to see but facing the page opp these words)



A rare sight for most of us, an adult common seastar with its young about it. Image from Black Rock

## General

Never a dull moment if you walk our sanctuary...

This washed up ocean sunfish was found in the Ricketts Point Sanctuary around Tuesday the 5th Feb. It can grow to over 2.5 tonnes and 3 metres long!. It is the worlds heaviest bony fish. Fisheries were advised.



At our last MCRP members meeting, Simon Branigan gave us a most entertaining and informative lecture on the The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Bay Oyster Recovery Project. The future will owe a lot to groups such as the TNC, and its advocates like Simon, who travelled a long way to be with us on the night.

# Marine Care Ricketts Point

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**Find more out about MCRP. Go to our  
website [www.marinecare.org.au](http://www.marinecare.org.au)**

## EDITORS NOTE

Some delightful images in this issue, showing the wonderful variation in our marine life and also an overview of what we have all been up to since Christmas.

If you have any contributions of relevance to our Sanctuary and marine life in general, do mail the editor

The Editor hopes that you enjoyed this rather more colourful issue than normal



Why is he smiling? His best friend Jeff Weirs work on his behalf has been recognized.....

MESAC's project to rebuild the BYC into a multi user facility based around the existing yacht club received an encouraging boost when the Federal Environment Minister, Melissa Price paid a visit.



Our friends at the Beaumaris Earth Sciences Society [BESS] are in the final stages of producing a three part video on our Beaumaris Fossils Heritage, that will be available in a couple of months time.

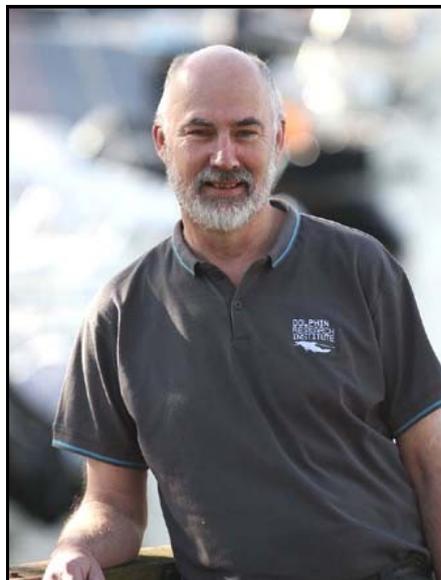
**Image right.** Jeff Weir OAM. The Dolphin Research Institute proudly congratulates their Executive Director Jeff Weir, for receiving the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division)



Image Peter Dedrick

Above the Lions Mane Jelly with its rather long stingers. They have been a problem this summer.

Next issue we hope to provide some useful medical advice re treatment of stings from our



Our best wishes to Jeff who has spent many years building the DRI and its contribution to dolphin welfare

**.... Next issue likely April 2019**