

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts Point



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

Issue 67. August 2019

Local Seal Visits



During June and early July there were various sightings of Fur Seals along our Bayside beaches, and in July, a Leopard Seal made an appearance.

They can be savage and must be treated with caution!! Are such visits becoming more common?

Leopard Seal on Frankston Beach in July



Winter Solstice and More



It was bleak and grey weekend when we established a winter solstice regime of both a snorkel on Saturday and a foreshore walk, on the Sunday. Above some of the 35 or so who joined the foreshore walk and associated lectures, and left the hardy crew of 4 who kicked off our first ever solstice weekend snorkel

Toni Roberts, David Langmead, Mark Wilson, and Lucia are awarded the winter solstice medal!



It has been interesting too, to see a number of unusually large (locally), Blue Blubber Jellies (*Catostylus mosaicus*) washed up on the shore. One at least 30 centimetres across.. The

Larger ones are a significant motor boat and more problem overseas where they get sucked up into ship motors and block

them.

No sooner had we added this image above than one came in from Cornwall of a 2 metre plus jelly!



HUMAN-SIZED JELLYFISH
ATURE SEEN OFF CORNWALL COAST



Image Peter Lamshed

Guess what these on the left are? They are all over the Bay, on every pile and rock and more, that has an intertidal reach.

They are Limey Worm cases, better(?) known as *Galeolaria caespitosa*..

It may be of interest to know that they are spread around the mid tide line, reaching about half a metre below and half a metre above such. This can be a handy reference as to where the tide is at..

Marine Values and Design Skills



Since our last mailer, MESAC has led a couple of University group visits to the Sanctuary. Such visits reflect a growing interest in the marine world and the special values of our near city sanctuary, in providing a base for 'hands on' marine education.

That said, Infrastructure support for such visits, at all levels, is still sadly lacking!

Above here, a group of local and international Masters students from the RMIT School of Design, led by Pirjo Haikola and supported by Ray Lewis, explore local intertidal reef life, with a view to understanding marine sector values, and how such might be best promoted design wise.

Nature



After finding one Blue Soldier Crab on the Tea House foreshore in late April, there was an overnight explosion around May 31..Has anyone ever seen such in the past? All were gone a couple of days later.



Tim Forster captured this rare image of our local sea urchin (*Heliocidaris erythrogramma*,) spawning. They do so at the same time as our corals do both here and on the Great Barried Reef!

And here below a delightful image of a PJ from Jack Breedon.



The Environment

Cigarette butts, not straws, are the #1 source of plastic pollution in the ocean, according to new report.



RETURNNOW.NET

Volunteers Collect 270,000 Cigarette Butts in 3 Hours in Brussels

As this item from Belgium affirms, it seems we are not alone in our local endeavours to clean up our waters.

And see below, if we ever needed an incentive to keep our beaches clean, here it is.

Mark Rodrigue of Parks Vic recently featured this article on his Facebook page.

It took 96 weeks and thousands of volunteers to clean up Versova Beach in Mumbai, India. The payoff? Hundreds of thousands of seaturtles hatching this week. First time in decades. Anything can be cleaned!

BEFORE



AFTER



BREAKING: NEWS

Research by the Port Phillip Eco-Centre and released by the Sunday Age, shows that microplastics hitting Port Phillip Bay from the surface of the Yarra & Maribyrnong **Rivers doubled to 1.1 billion each year.**

Almost 80% of the now **1.4 billion pieces of litter** that flow into the Bay every year are microplastics.

A Disgrace!



Matt Testoni of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria has reported this incident , which is appalling.

See left, a photo before the legal (unfortunately) collection of the entire population of spider crabs at Blairgowrie in June.

The spider crab migration is a most valued natural phenomenon that even David Attenborough came out here to film!

Sadly, thanks to a large group of non local crab catchers, **the whole population was removed within a week.** (Who knows if any will return next year ?)

This is a disgrace, and the law must be changed, before this poaching becomes institutionalised.



Our wonderful Rainbow Lorikeets, that nest in the rotten cores of old Banksias, are now in full colour and song.

Marine Care Ricketts Point

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Find more out about MCRP. Go to our website www.marinecare.org.au

Parks Victoria -New Charter.

Parks Victoria Act 2018

The objects of Parks Victoria as stated in the new Act are:

- “(a) protect, conserve and enhance Parks Victoria managed land, including its natural and cultural values, for the benefit of the environment and current and future generations; and
- (b) recognise and support traditional owner knowledge of and interests in Parks Victoria managed land; and
- (c) provide for and encourage the community's enjoyment of and involvement in Parks Victoria managed land; and
- (d) improve the community's knowledge and appreciation of Parks Victoria managed land; and
- (e) contribute to the well-being of the community through the effective protection and management of Parks Victoria managed land; and
- (f) contribute to the achievement of State and regional land management outcomes as far as is consistent with the effective protection and management of Parks Victoria managed land.”

EDITORS NOTE

The survey as to the state and value of this mailer went well, thank you. 94% gave it a 9 or 10 out of 10. (Generous. No doubt to keep me putting in the effort !!). 2% each gave it 8, 7, and a 5.

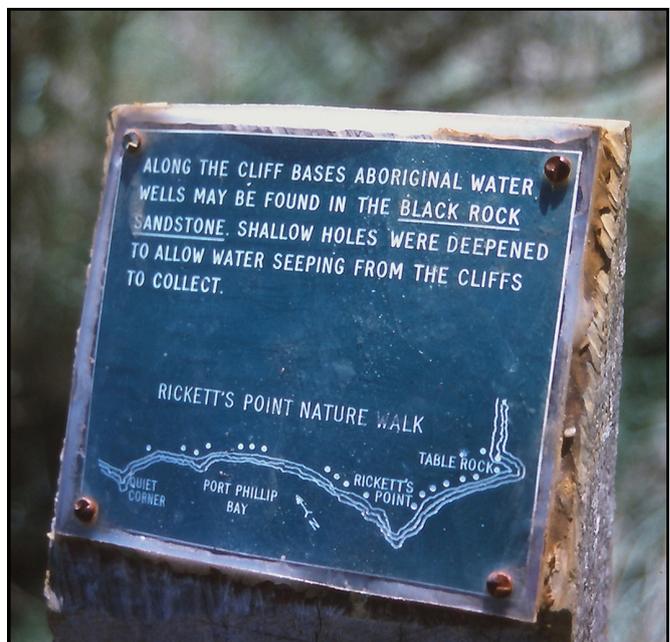
All comments valued and the main one was for the editor to find the time to edit more carefully. Some images were noted as substandard, and there is an occasional spelling error. Sometimes too, a line or two of text has slipped behind an image.

If anyone is a skilled editor and can cope with the pre-publishing format of Microsoft Publisher do make contact..

You can see the whole Parks Victoria Act 2018 here

http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/num_act/pva201819o2018216/

PV is now a better funded statutory authority in its own right.



If you come across any dodgy old signs along our foreshores, such as this one, do note its location and content and let one of the historical societies know. Times have certainly changed.