



Marine Care Ricketts Point

NEWSLETTER

www.marinecare.org.au

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Folks

It seems with the spike in Covid 19 in Melbourne we will have to stay distanced for a bit longer.

As you know, both our monthly 3193 Beach Patrols and most other MCRP activities like Sea Searches have been cancelled until further notice.

Fortunately for us, it is winter, so in a sense it is our 'resting time' when we conduct fewer activities anyway.

We did, however, run a very successful winter solstice snorkel on 20 June, with 7 brave snorkellers attending, and even seeing a sea slug. We were happily surprised that a few members came down to stand on the shore watching them and cheering them on. (See pictures below.)

Although we can't formally run our 3193 Beach Patrol, we really encourage you to get out on your own or with a couple of friends to help pick up litter along the seashore, which is coming in with the stronger winter winds. You can load up data on what you've collected on the free **Litter Stopper app**.

I know I've seen many members as we walk separately along Ricketts Point to get some exercise and fresh air.

Here's some of what we've been doing and seeing.

Stay safe, stay well.

Beth Jensen
President

Bayside Council's Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan

We've been very busy with the BECAN group having input into Bayside Council's Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Council now has the Plan out for comment on their website until the end of July. It's important they get as many comments as possible. Please comment at

<https://yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/climate-emergency-action-plan> .

Extending Smoking Bans

After the unprecedented bushfires in November – March, we wrote in June to Parks Victoria to ask them to ban smoking in Victoria's national parks. Queensland and NSW have already introduced such bans. We'll let you know when we get a response.

MCRP protects and educates about the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary at Beaumaris.

WE formed in January 2003, two months after the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary came into effect.

Our inaugural President, Bob Whiteway, OAM, was largely responsible for the Victorian Government declaring the area a marine sanctuary.

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Winter solstice snorkel

This was one of our bigger turnouts for this event, on a beautiful, clear day, with almost no wind. Perfect!!! The water was cold however - 11° water.



Preparations are under way for the 7 snorkellers who took to Ricketts Point for our winter snorkel – all very well prepared for the 50 minute snorkel in cold but clear 11° water.

Importantly, they all wore their heavier snorkel equipment. All loved it and thought it was a great experience. Snorkel Co-ordinator David Langmead had plenty of warm water ready for cold hands and feet for when they got out, and some MCRP Committee members provided flasks of hot drinks and biscuits, which meant we could all have a great catch-up afterwards.



And Ivan, one of our eagle-eyed snorkellers, was able to see a small green sea slug that was later confirmed as a little *placida dentritica*.



While snorkellers importantly all wore warm wetsuits for the long time they spent in the water, moving slowly looking for rays, nudibranchs, and other fish, we also came across this regular iceberg who swims (fast) every day. He told us he'd first fallen in love with Ricketts Point when he used to go on geography classes down here with his geography teacher – who was, of course, Bob Whiteway! Sorry, we didn't get his name.

Beach Patrol 3193 – Doing it alone



Our snorkel Co-Ordinator David Langmead and our MCRP Secretary Anna Daniels decided to take advantage of a beautiful clear day this week to do some beach cleaning. Look at the photo below.

At first they thought the sandy-coloured rise below was low-lying rock. They soon discovered it was a large piece of foam plastic – all ready to break down into tiny pieces if they hadn't recovered it.



Other news and information

One of our members reminded me that Parks Victoria are running a Winter By the Sea series of webinars during the Covid and winter months to keep volunteers engaged. Check out these two webinars – one on Exploring Victoria’s Underwater Parks and the other Pt Cooke Marine Sanctuary Shark and Ray Monitoring.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oapeUQPo0-I&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/volunteering>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJQvGayhqY8>

The Time of Chaos

Did you know that 10,000 years ago, Port Phillip Bay was a fertile valley, with the Yarra River flowing through it. Then the sea broke through the heads, and it became the Bay it is today.

If you have time to walk along the beautiful cliff walk above Half Moon Bay, you’ll see this stunning representation called The Time of Chaos. It was inspired by indigenous elder of the Boon wurrung, Carolyn Briggs, who described the flooding as the time of chaos. The sculpture depicts the ancient Yarra River, where it originally flowed 10,000 years ago and six eggs. The eggs represent the 6 traditional groups of the Boon wurrung people.

