

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



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Issue 46 — March 2016

A Great Summer of Activity Continues



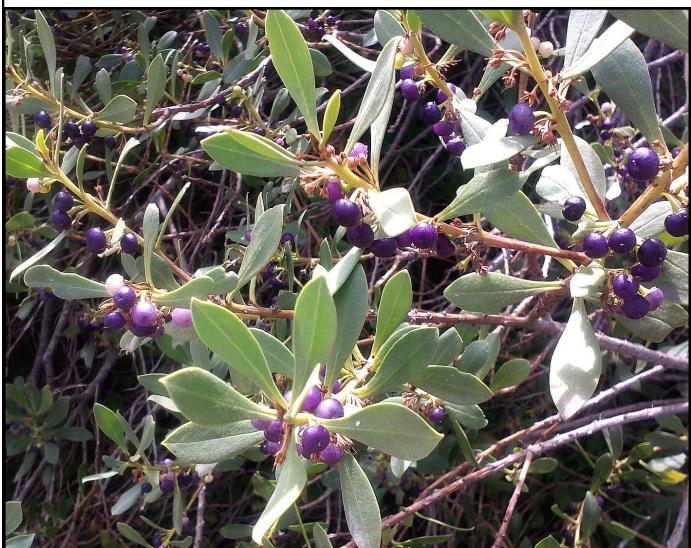
From Peter Dedrick
Tea House Reef Scene

Signs of an Abnormal Season?

Having noticed first, a substantial and unusual coloration change in the Bayside salt bush male florets, and a later heavy seeding of the females, I asked an Aboriginal contact what this might mean. I was told native plants foresee coming extreme seasons and prepare for such. I then looked for other unusual changes, and it seems abnormally heavy fruiting and or seeding has become widespread along the foreshore. See some images in support of this contention.



Left and centre abnormal Banksia cones as at January 2016, and above right, an unusually dense bunch of Kangaroo Apples



Above many Boobialla are covered with their edible berries, and right, the beaches were awash with Sargassum berries (?) in December.

Sign of an Abnormal Season? –2

The first observation (November) was the widespread yellow, [instead of bright purple], male florets on salt-bush, followed by heavily seeding females



These unusual golden florets extended across most of Bayside



Rare and dense seeding of female salt bushes.

Various reports now coming in re birds re-nesting and Banksia's having a second flowering (Feb 16)

A rare sight to see with so many Pig Face (*Karkalla rossii*) fruits in one patch?

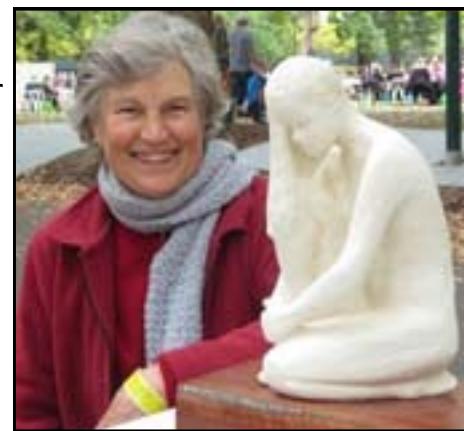


Although this section was written for our last mailer, but could not be fitted in, it will still be interesting to see if these omens are proven correct over the coming season.

Eclectic—Our MCRP artists who exhibited at the MESAC Easel Art Show in the BYC.



Left. Steffie Wallace was recently awarded the Lorenzo il Magnifico Silver Medal for Painting in Florence Italy. Our congratulations to her. Her works were a set of large landscapes entitled 'Transience', centred around environmental climatic changes of an extreme nature. Further details at <http://www.steffiewallacevisualart.com>



Above a splendid sculpture from Betty Knight,

Below Wendy Robertson working on one of her swan series of sculptural works.

Below. Val Royle and one of her many works

Left. Betty Lewis with a painting of our departed friend Mike Ietch.

And, Pam Patterson with her pot bellied seahorse



Our apologies to any other of our artists whose 'light remains under a bushell' as they say...



MCRP Happenings



Image Fran Dedrick



Left: Lachlan, a triple Olympian gold medallist, and now, thanks to DDA, a snorkeler too. **Above** a good crowd at the AGM, where Bob Whiteway and Ray Lewis received special service awards



Above. MCRP supported the inaugural MESAC marine art show in the BYC, which was a great success.

New snorkelers join us at a steady rate and we now need to roster dive leaders to keep everyone well briefed and safe. We had 22 in the water here on the beach near the BYC, on the last Saturday in Feb.

Two new sanctuary books are due out this year. One on sea and foreshore birds and the other on our local fossil heritage. Keep an eye out for both of these RMIT University related projects, as copies may be limited. (Many missed out on the snorkelling book)



Marine Care

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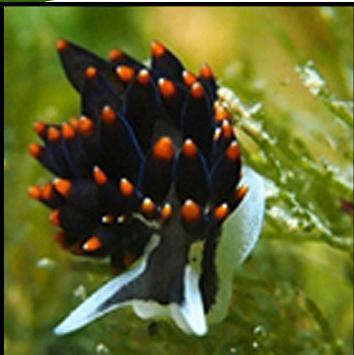
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EDITORS NOTE:

A warm welcome to our new Parks Victoria Ranger



In February we welcomed our new PV Ranger, Jess Strang, via a local briefing and then coffee and a chat at the Tea House. We look forward to working with Jess, who is also very well qualified for the job. (More next issue). Jess is based out of Williamstown and will monitor our three top of Bay sanctuaries.



This nudibranch, an *Erclania boodeae* was identified in the last issue as a Waratah Anemone, (which it is obviously not), in error. :-)



Left and below. Bob Whiteway and Ray Lewis with their MCRP awards at the 2016 AGM



Above: Fam Charko of the Ecocentre, attended our February AGM and gave us an excellent talk on nurdles and more...

Bob was the founder and original President of MCRP, and Ray, President from 2008- 2014



As a leading Victorian marine care group, (some 250 members now), we can do a lot more to help other groups get going, and also to continue to 'lift our own game'. A recent flush of new blood has proven to be most welcome, and new leaders, with new enthusiasms are emerging to take us forward.

.... Next issue likely May 2016