

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts Point



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

Issue No 43 November 2015

First Members Meeting of the Season



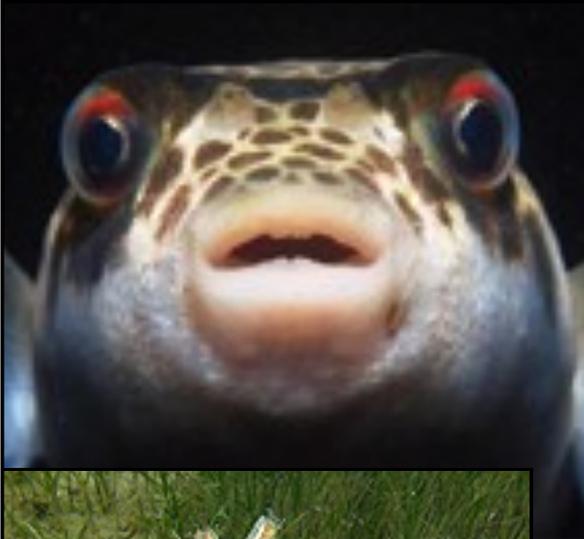
We had a reasonably well attended October members meeting to hear a motivational talk from Zoe Hogg. Zoe has worked tirelessly over many years to help understand and protect the valued penguin colony on the St Kilda breakwater. Apparently, over the 'season' for such, her group can call on, in excess of 1000 volunteers to do monitoring work!

This and That



This image was taken by Peter Dedrick, and shows Kim Wright diving at Flinders, in October. There is always serendipity in such images, and apart from the Weedies, can you see the Magpie Perch?

And, from Phil Watson, below/left, what might best be described as a character study of an inquisitive Toady.



Above from Kim Wright, something we are having trouble identifying, (a common thing these days as we learn to 'see' more). A garden light? Just advised its and Ascidian called *Sycozoa cerebriformis*

And left, a supposedly 11 armed sea star. Has anyone seen one with any more legs than this?

The Great Fish Count



We have yet to miss a Great Fish Count, and it is a most enjoyable day on our annual snorkeling and diving calendar. And we must not forget and extend our best wishes Wendy Roberts who drove it along so well over the past decade.

This year was no exception, David led the dives and Gayle organised the T Shirts, reports and more. Although a bit early we think, for a 'maximised' fish count in the sanctuary, the list was as healthy as it has

From Gayle....

"Thank you to everyone who turned up for the fish count today. In spite of less than ideal conditions 5 teams entered the water. Fish sighted were zebras, dusky morwongs, blennies, flathead, sweep, snapper, leather jackets (spined & horseshoe), toadies, baitfish, & also 11 arm sea stars, sea biscuits & abundant jellyfish. I will send the info thru to parks vic. My thanks to you all.

MCRP's participation in the fish count goes back to about 2009. Look out for the t shirt snaps.

"Sadly the day was marred by the discovery of a dead Little Penguin on the beach outside the teahouse... a 3 month old chick from St Kilda rookery (thanks Julianne for finding this out)".



Nairm Notes

Training your eyes and brain to 'see' as well as look, when underwater, takes time. David Reinhard sent in this great shot of a mantis shrimps against a red algae background.



Easier to see in the image above from Phil Watson.



What is happening to our coastal salt bush? For many years past, all our male plants have had bright red flowers as shown, but this year all are a golden yellow to brown?



Cyanea capillata on the left is our Lions Mane Jelly and has arrived again this year. Its OK, but watch out for a very similar looking red Jelly, *Chryasore Sp* that can sting. You can tell the latter by a series of petal like shapings of the umbrella..Cyannea is rough edged.



Go Palau!



Some of the many islands of Palau

SANCTUARY vs. NO SANCTUARY

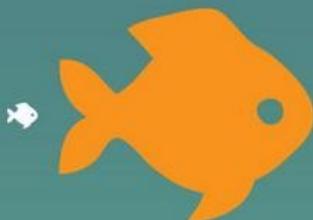
Sanctuaries have been proven to have a dramatic impact on the oceans and species that inhabit them:

 = non-sanctuary environment  = sanctuary environment

In sanctuaries, there are **200%** more large fish species



In sanctuaries, there are **840%** more large fish, measured by mass



Under the leadership of President Tommy Remengesau Jr., Palau is poised to make history by establishing the world's first Nation-wide Marine Sanctuary – designating its entire ocean territory as a regenerative zone for sharks, whales, tuna, and countless other precious species.

This is a bold vision to reverse the oceans' degradation from industrial fishing and to protect one of the last great places on Earth, and we know it can work.

Palau declared the world's first shark sanctuary in 2009. Today, 10 countries have followed Palau's lead, creating 4.9 million square miles of shark sanctuary. Others have followed suit with similarly important shark protections. Palau showed that it was possible. Its small spark ignited massive global action

It must be a great new place for our local world traveling divers to visit. And, just look at the statistics on the left.

AGL Marine Response Unit & Urchin Prob-

Beth Jensen of MCRP and Beach Patrol Australia advises that the AGL Marine Response Unit season is officially open. As Victoria's first dedicated marine unit, they respond to calls for assistance involving seals, turtles, dolphins and other marine wildlife in Victorian waters.

The response unit relies on the community to act as its eyes and ears, so for more information on how you can report when you see injured or distressed marine wildlife on Victoria's coastline, please call 1300 245 678 (1300 AGL MRU) or visit our website for more info: www.zoo.org.au/about-us/vision-and-mission/our-projects/aglmru - the service is sponsored by AGL Energy

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) is **Investigating the deaths of sea stars and urchins** at the DEDJTR Queenscliff facility.

The sea stars and urchins were sourced from the Portarlington area and there is some concern that these species were infected with a disease in the wild.

DEDJTR is trying to establish if there are sea stars, urchins and other similar echinoderms that are diseased in Port Phillip Bay.

Symptoms of affected animals are: limb curling, white spots on the sea star or echinoderm, loss of limbs, deflation and death. The animals may appear to "melt".

DEDJTR would appreciate the reporting of sightings of echinoderms affected with these symptoms to the Customer Service Centre (PHONE 136 186).

Information on the location (GPS if available), species (if known), numbers, water depth and a description of lesions would be appreciated. Any photographic images would also be of assistance



Fran and Beth do some rubbish weighing to report to Beach Control HQ.

The Beach clean up continues its valued contribution, and has led to many other walkers now collecting rubbish along the way as well.

Our local beach walkers are getting used to, and expecting, cleaner beaches now.

Marine Care

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Find out more about MCRP.

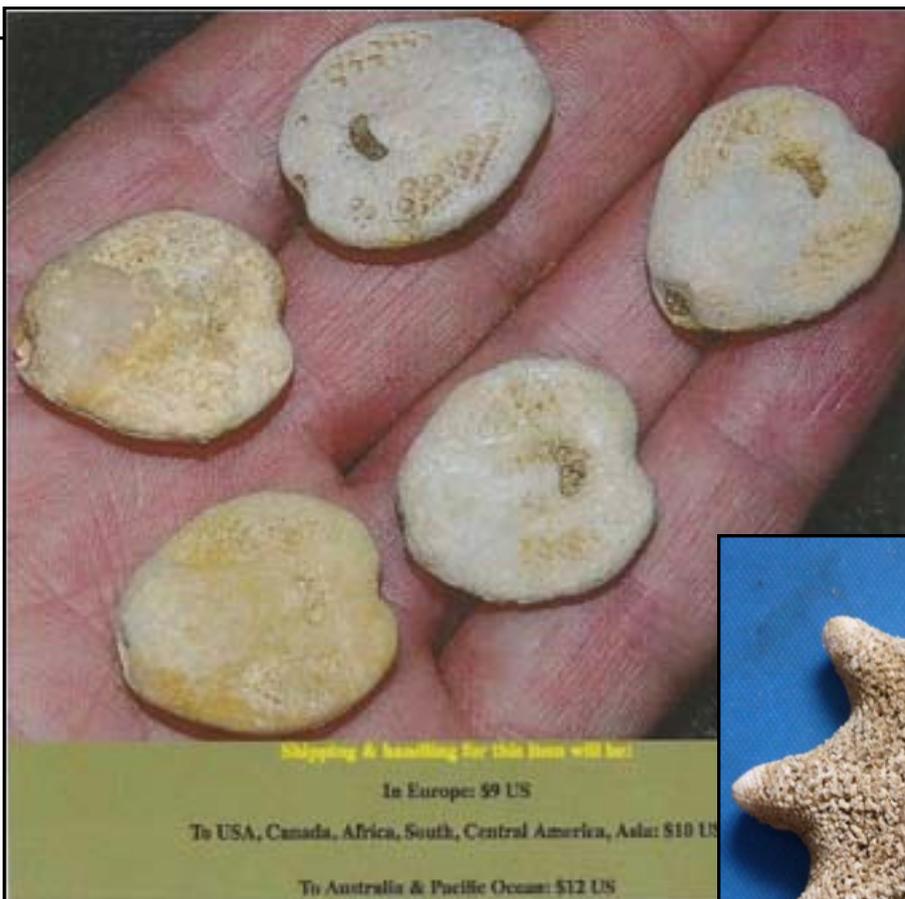
Go to our website .
www.marinecare.org.au

EDITORS NOTE

The 2015-2020 Central Coastal Region Plan is now available on Line at www.ccb.vic.gov.au. It guides all decision makers State and Council as to appropriate development priorities etc It also includes higher level action plans with dates and which authority is to get things done.

Free hard copies can be obtained via can be obtained by mailing admin@ccb.vic.gov.au

It does however seem to be a higher level planning document full of such matters, and I guess this is not where we might expect to find initiatives like: re plant a foreshore, dredge a dirty drain outlet, save a species, plot coastal erosion and take preventative action, remediate dirty water running into the bay and somesuch. I guess that is left to local Councils, to infer from the 'issues and outcomes desired' sections.



These Australian *Lovenia forbesi* are for sale on the internet for \$17 Australian each plus postage. We need to be very vigilant of our own local fossils site where *Lovenia Wilsonii*, which looks the same, is prevalent.



Can anyone tell the editor what star this is ? (Note it has 9 legs)

.... Next issue likely January 2016