

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts Point



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

Issue no 44 December 2015

Another Year is Almost Gone



We showed up in strength for the final beach clean up of the season and following BBQ.

Left, just a few of those who assisted the Great Fish Count. We have supported every event since the first in 2005

Other Recent Events

The first 'formal' snorkel was well attended and it bodes for some bigger events as the weather improves. Fish are coming back in big numbers.



Eight of us attended a great training day at the new Parks Victoria Seasearch programme launch at the BLSC. The weather however was diabolical and field work was limited.



Above a six million y.o. nautilus fossil from our local cliffs



Our November members meeting was very well attended too, with some 40+ of us enjoying a whales Ppt from Peter Detrick, and a great trio of young people from the Marine Conservation Society of Australia, led by Shannon Hurley, talking on the Great Barrier Reef and other conservation issues.



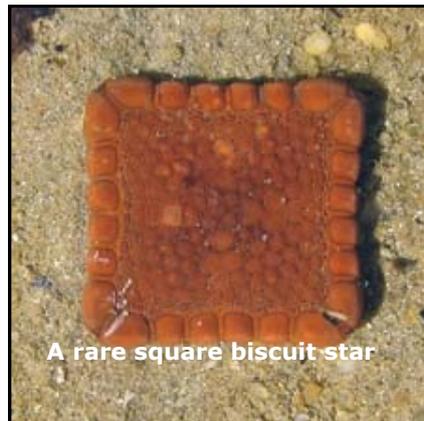
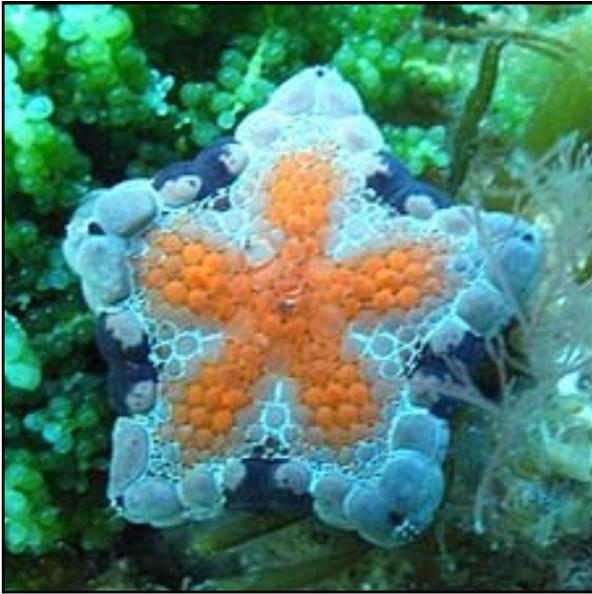
Nairm Notes . A Sea Stars Special Page 1

Here we have a set of images covering the local sea stars you are most likely to see. We are fortunate to have such ready access to a most excellent sanctuary.



Nairm Notes . A Sea Stars Special. Page 2

Here are some more stars and variations. No spoon feeding this time! Look them up in Edgar. If you haven't got copy, borrow one from our librarian Val Royle. ([Email the editor](#) for her contact details).



Images from Susan Carden, Peter Dedrick, Kim Wright Sandy Webb and Ray Lewis.

I will be seeking top class nudibranch images, from all of our photographers (on a returnable thumb drive), for a special page or two, in the next [March] edition.



What an extraordinary delight to be told of this nudibranch. Unfortunately not from around the Bay, or some of us, would become even more obsessed in a search with their underwater cameras.

THE STORY TO GO WITH IT.

Scientists have confirmed for the first time that one extraordinary species of sea slug 'steals' genes from the algae it eats, which enables it to photosynthesize like a plant and gain energy from

sunlight. This exceptionally weird phenomenon is one of the only examples of inter-species gene transfer, and it could lend us clues for future research into gene therapy techniques.

From Susan Carden, we have this exquisite image of a Lions Mane Jelly in the sanctuary [*Cyanea annaskala*]



Looks like our local moon snails are headed for a good season with many egg sacs along the shore at the moment. Some have been counted to have around 1000 eggs each embedded in the jelly. They can be observed as small brown spots if the jelly is held up to the light. As the jelly dissolves the eggs sink in to the sand to hatch.

Plastic Waste

As we all know there is great need for public education on what happens to very butt and plastic bit that is let in a gutter or on a beach or thrown overboard. They all wind up in the water and can cause great damage. Every small plastic soft drink bottle for example, eventually breaks down into 24 000 toxic micro particles that get in to the food chain.

Sandy Webb, from our sister group at Williamston (Jawbone Marine Sanctuary) recently posted this image and text on her facebook page.

Sandy asks **"Why would someone who buys 'Sustainably Caught' bait just throw the plastic bags overboard? And why would people who buy 'Take Aways' not take away the containers? So much plastic waste on the beautiful Jawbone beach today... "**

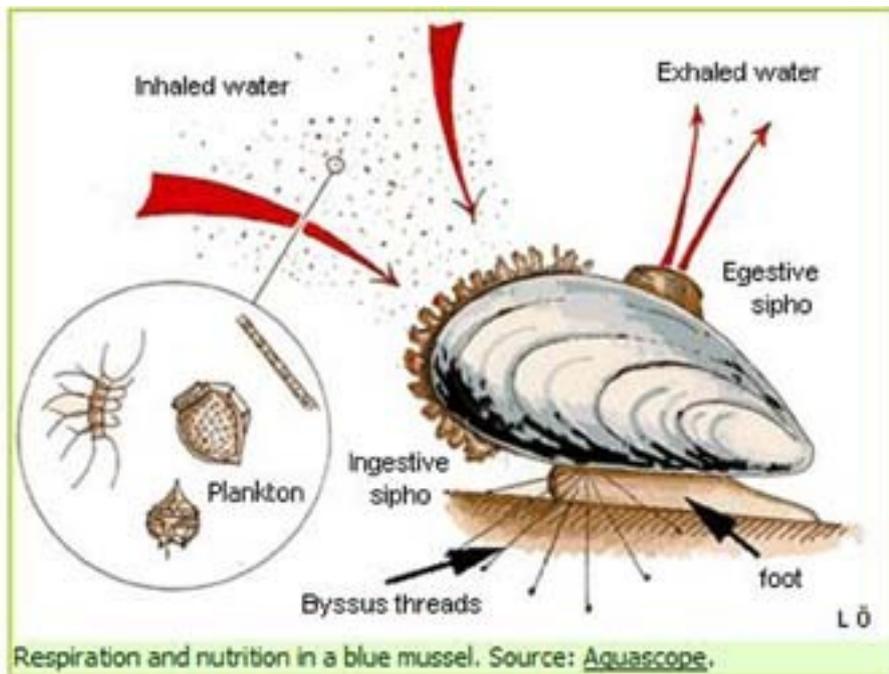


We at Ricketts have had a very successful beach cleaning season and the stats may be of interest.

For this year of 2015 alone, '3193 Ricketts Point Beach Patrol' has collected 374 kgs of rubbish using 370 volunteer hours, and the three most

frequent items we have collected have been plastic fragments and cigarette butts.

About Mussels



Mussels can be described as surface dwelling (non burrowing) bivalve filter feeders.

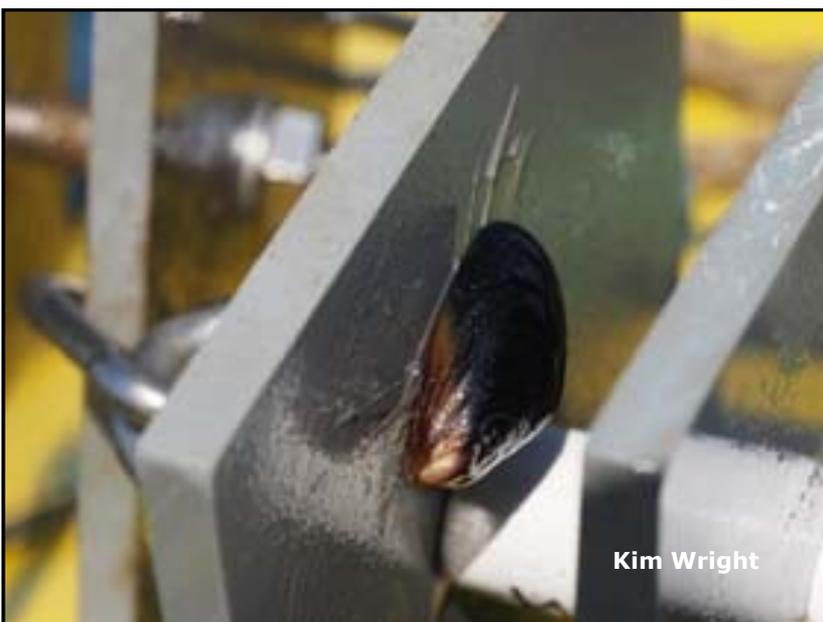
They live attached to solid substrates, (piles, rocks etc) by tough threads called byssal threads. In Port Phillip due to the lack of hard substrate, some appear to live on sandy bottoms in large colonies attached to granules of silica and calcite.

The byssal threads are secreted by a gland near their foot. The threads begin soft, but gradually harden, and

when they have done so, the foot is drawn back in to the shell. These threads are very tough, but, and here is a surprise, mussels can let go of the threads and move about via their foot.

Mussels live in intertidal areas and can withstand freezing, excessive heat and desiccation. When the tide exposes them, they breathe by passing air over their gills. Our local and most edible mussel is known as *Mytilus edulus planatus*.

They are now common again in the sanctuary, but variably located, after many years of



Here left, is what led to our special interest in mussel mobility.

Kim Wright and Peter Detrick have a citizen science project running in which they are seeking to recruit mussel spat as part of a bay wide project to recover our oyster and mussel beds.

This fully grown mussel appeared out of the blue, and firmly attached itself. It generated quite a bit of interest on just how it got there.

Marine Care

MCRP Business Address
PO Box 7356 Beaumaris 3193

Editor: Ray Lewis
ray@lewisfamily.com.au

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

EDITORS NOTE

As you can see from this issue, we have had plenty of opportunities, at many levels, for our members to engage with each other and help us to meet our objectives.

With now 240+ of us, we hope to see many more having a first snorkel (all ages and one on one help if you would like that), keeping our beaches clean, helping out with a reef species survey (good fun), hearing great guest speakers at our summer meetings, doing their first bit of citizen science, attending sea search surveys, learning about marine photography and local Aboriginal and foreshore heritage matters, and much more.

Socially too, you will find yourself most welcome, for that too, is also what we are about.

A quick correction from our previous mailer. -

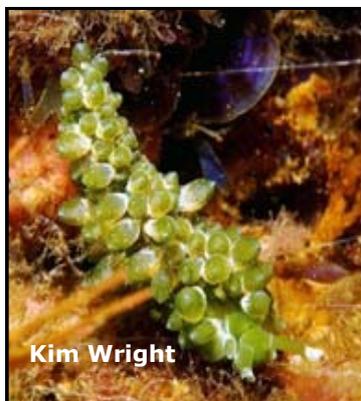
The tiny shrimp images (Dave) are actually Skeleton Shrimps in the family Caprellidae, a subgroup of the Amphipoda - rather than Mantis Shrimps. Also, the unusual 8 armed (dried out) sea star in our last issue was the short spined seastar *Patiriella brevispina*.

Anyone who provides valuable corrections to my species naming errors or other, might refer to the latest names in Edgar's 2008 edition, or updated state archives, as changes seem to be continuous.

<http://www.bay-keeper.com/captain-trash-not-a-real-pirate/>. Check in here for a link to our Baykeeper's Summer by the Sea events.



Sandy Webb



Kim Wright



S Klaus

These two nudibranchs are local to us, and, like that on page 5, also carry wonders. *brevicaudatum* on the left, eats anemone arms and transmits their stinging cells to its own outer body to help protect it. *Stiliger smaragdinus* on the right, seems to do some genetic magic and change its shape to resemble our local *Caulerpa cactoidies*.

... Next issue likely February 2016