

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts Point



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Issue 52 - February 2017

Marine Care Ricketts Point—AGM 2017



Professor Stephen Shearer of Melbourne University, gave us a most valued presentation on the plague of native sea urchins, and their effect on Kelp in Port Phillip. Solutions to the growing urchin problems and more are as yet not clear.



Our new committee for 2017 was duly elected.

They are as follows: President – Beth Jensen; Secretary – Virginia Mosk; Treasurer – Kim Wright; General Committee – Jinty Wilson, Val Royle, Ken Blackman, and new members Asher Judah and Hazel Stanworth, were especially welcome.

Below, a section of the very good attendance we had at the AGM. We extended our invitation to non members as well, as our guest speakers warrant a wider audience, and public education is one of our key objectives as a volunteer group.



Social



The annual orphans picnic was a quiet happy success, with a dozen or so attend on balmy evening .

We were also blessed with good weather for the annual birthday BBQ for the four of our members who have such, within days of each other around mid



Above the birthday celebration bunch, and below the four of them that we gathered to have fun with.

Left to right, Fran Dedrick, John Murphy, Peter Dedrick and Bob Whiteway

We run a series of events that have a social reach including Saturday morning coffee at the Tea House) and our now monthly beach clean ups.

Summer by the Sea Events

Through MESAC and the Disabled Divers Associations (DDA) we supported two high profile community events in January, as part of Bayside's Summer by the Sea programme under the auspices of Coastcare Vic. We hope for a couple of more events for next year.



Right here, Ray Lewis presented an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage event (limited to 20 people). The Beaumaris Yacht Club kindly made their premises available, fortunately, as the outside sea country walk, was brought inside due to temperatures around 38!



Bert Parker of DDA established their first SBTS event, being an introduction to snorkelling for people with a disability.

It was a success well beyond expectations with 24 volunteers there to assist 10 wheelchair bound people get their first taste of snorkelling.

There was subsequently wide press and TV coverage.



We were all very proud to be part of this inaugural event, and being able to create such a great day for others. Thank you Bert.

The event became a production line, and many lessons were learned for the future, in making this event something even more special.

Nemm (Port Phillip Bay) Notes



Part of the delight of the sanctuary is its foreshore life. This bush, the slender velvet bush, was down to it's last three Bayside plants when discovered only a few years back. The Bayside Nursery crew grew many and now it is a common site along the foreshore, (and around the Tea House front door).



After some months of often cancelled snorkelling due weather, we finally got a near perfect day in a near perfect place.

A most pleasant snorkel at Mc Gregors Rock (Quiet Corner) with warm water and 8 metres viz, made us forget the 'norm' this year

Quiet Corner and Mc Gregors Rock (Just below Central Avenue) at an unusually low tide during 2016. A great place to snorkel with a few interesting caves



MCRP Assets

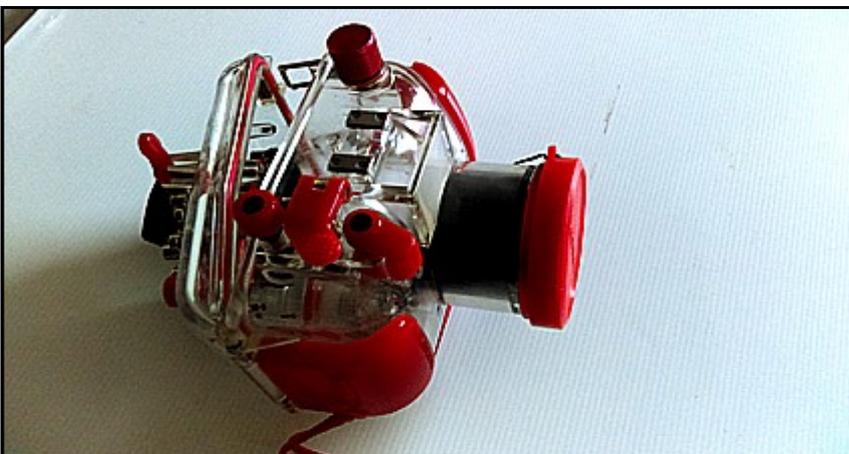


MCRP has accumulated various assets over time. Some are well underutilised by our members .

Shown here are binoculars, an underwater still camera and an underwater videocam. There is also a Go Pro, and an underwater torch.

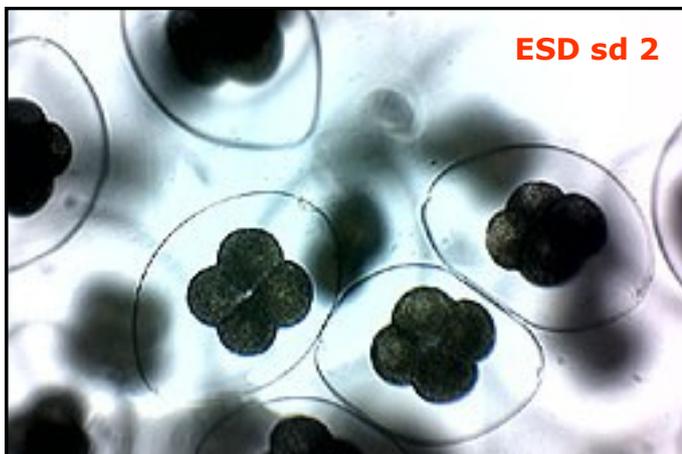
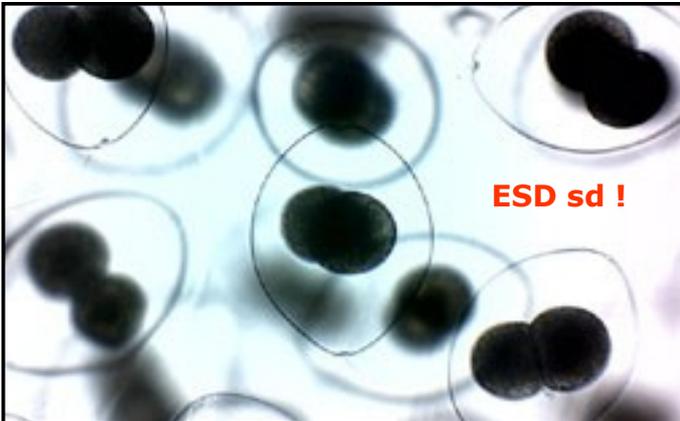
We also have a hand held GPS, and a handy UW viewer for waders. (See below)

Our committee keep an overall property register, and such items need to be signed for. Currently [the editor](#) holds the items shown here, on behalf of the committee.

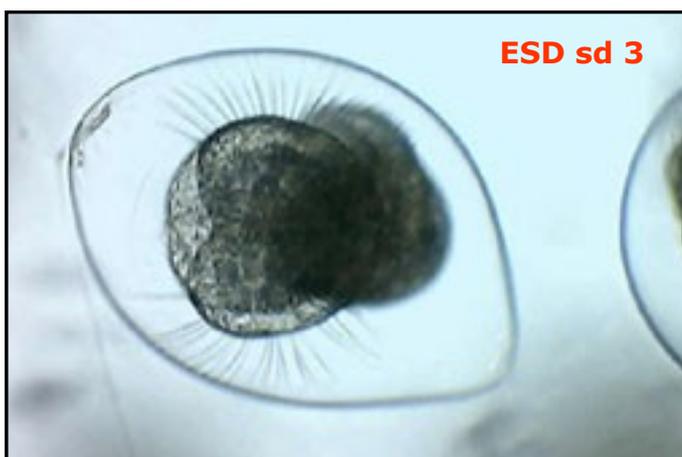


Life in the Sanctuary

Here are a remarkable series of images from Kim Wright, which add lustre to our Citizen Science efforts. They show early stage development of the marine pulmonate gastropod, *Siphonaria diemenensis*. THESE IMAGES ARE, AS YET, COPYRIGHT Kim Wright



ESD Sd 1. Egg capsule after I cell division
ESD Sd 2. Egg capsule after 2 cell divisions
ESD Sd 3. Early veliger stage
ESD Sd 4. Late veliger stage (free-swimming larval stage)
ESD Sd 5. Adult *Siphonaria diemenensis*



Size of egg capsule is approximately 0.15 mm by 0.13 mm

Time for initial cell division to hatching 10 to 16 days (literature).

The first two stages shown are reached over several hours.

And what did this sequence grow in to?

Yes, its familiar to most of us; it's our locally limpet, the False Limpit, or more technically, *Siphonaria diemenensis*

We have a new very important and exciting citsci project in train, where we will ground truth plankton genome idents from world class new gene charting technology from RMIT

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EDITORS NOTE

Every picture is worth a thousand words 'they' say, and whenever we run a very pictorial issue, we get the most positive email responses.

Hence the current balance of a little education, a little of what's on or been on, and plenty of images for us to visualize events etc that we might have missed.

The committee are looking to update our website, and plan using Wordpress as the Content Management System. While we have some expertise here, if anyone is particularly skilled here please let us know as back up at times can be helpful.



Marine experts have reinforced warnings that deadly Irukandji jellyfish are moving south and could soon be on Queensland's popular Sunshine Coast beaches.

It comes after four people were hospitalised on Wednesday and Thursday from Irukandji jellyfish stings on the western side of Fraser Island.

Irukandji jellyfish are the smallest and most venomous jellyfish in the world—and the most venomous creature on Earth. They inhabit the marine waters of Australia, Florida and the U.S.A. They are able to fire their stingers into their victim, causing symptoms collectively known as Irukandji syndrome. Their size is roughly a cubic centimetre.

There are about 16 known species of Irukandji: *Carukia barnesi*, *Malo kingi*, *Malo maximus*, *Malo filipina* and *Malo bella* are the most well known.

The video of the disabled snorkleing event at Ricketts Point in mid January, put together by DELWP, as part of Summer By The Sea, was seen by some 3600 people in the first week, and the Facebook page by 13 000. The Sea Life Aquarium kindly presented a new portable chair to DDA and that night the event was to be seen all TV stations. <https://www.facebook.com/DELWPPortPhillip/videos/1680739321966878/>

To all members, I would suggest that you make an effort and attend members meetings in the BLSC, and get up to speed on where and how you can be involved.

Our marine science lecture programme, organised by Virginia Mosk, our Secretary, is a rare opportunity, to learn from the best specialists around!

.... Next issue likely April 2017