



Marine Care Ricketts Point

NEWSLETTER

www.marinecare.org.au

Issue No 78 January 2021

Folks

I hope you have all managed to have a break and get away over the Christmas and holiday period.

We're glad to see the end of 2020, with COVID seeming to be largely under control here by the end of the year. Sadly, 2020 also saw us lose one of our treasured long-time members of MCRP, Peter Dedrick.

Most of us seem to have welcomed in 2021 quietly, but with great hope and optimism that this will be a good year, with COVID vaccine on the near horizon and Australia still in a great position compared to so many other countries.

We are planning, subject to Government requirements, to ramp up all our activities again this year.

Our snorkelling season has gotten off to a spectacular start, with no events cancelled due to bad weather.

Our Beach Patrol 3193 will resume on Saturday 6 February at 11am, at Beaumaris Yacht Club, with some changes to arrangements.

Our bi-monthly Speakers nights will resume on Thursday 4 February, via Zoom for this first event, with a great speaker and passionate marine carer, Shannon Hurley from VNPA.

If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, please do let me know.

We are also looking for people to help us out in several areas - helping to organise such things as Speakers nights, Beach Patrol, and help with our publicity - website and newsletter, and writing submissions.

If you can help even in small ways in these behind the scenes activities, please let me know.

Stay safe, stay well.

Elizabeth Jensen

President

M 0419 354 998

E elizabethjensen@outlook.com

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.

Incorporated Registered Charity A0043690H | ABN 58 898 180 989

VALE – PETER DEDRICK - 22-1-1951 – 06-12-2020

For those of you who did not know, Peter Dedrick died in early December from brain cancer. The funeral was a private family affair.

Peter was part of MCRP virtually from the start, helping us grow and extend our work. He was our long-time Secretary (and for some years de facto President) of MCRP. Early on he met Bob Whiteway, our inaugural President, and was greatly influenced by Bob's knowledge and passion to learn about our marine environment. Peter became an avid snorkeller, photographer, was passionate about MCRP, an excellent teacher, and always generous with his time and knowledge to all comers. He was a modest man, never tried to big note himself, although he did so much for the Sanctuary and MCRP in so many areas.

He liked to tell people he was born in Bethlehem – which was true – he was born in the Caulfield Hospital named Bethlehem, in Kooyong Rd, Caulfield South (near the corner of North Road).

Peter was a lawyer by training. He and wife Fran lived in Cheltenham for over 30 years, and Peter walked the beaches of Mentone and the Sanctuary almost every day, as well as engaging full-on in his marine activities.



Peter is third from right in this iconic MCRP photo taken in 2005. It's also on our website.

He lived the last 4 years at Mt Martha. However, he continued to stay in touch and actively involved. Since they moved, every year about mid-February we have had a special snorkel at Bird Rock (Mt Martha), after which we were invited to lunch at Peter and Fran's house. They also organised a walk around the reserve areas of Mt Martha in October 2020 for a group of MCRP people.

Peter and Fran have two grown children, James and Ruth, and two grandchildren, Toby and Eli. Ruth and her family lives nearby and their son James returned from lecturing in England to be with his father in the last days. James will stay in Australia with Fran for a while yet, continuing his teaching online from here.

Fran asked that we use this photo below of her and Peter, taken about a year ago, as it captures their love of the sea and their more than 40 years together. She asked that friends continue to pray for their family.

We are working with Fran, and through her, Peter's former work colleagues at AMES, to fund something for MCRP that would provide a lasting contribution to MCRP. Part of his last wishes was that he could continue to provide something to MCRP that would be of lasting value. Stay tuned.



Peter and Fran on the ferry to Brunei Island December 2019.

Saturday 9 January 2021 – Snorkelling skills with Dive2U

It was a spectacular day for the 30 people who showed up for this very special event. Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), of which we are a member, arranged for the very professional team at Dive2U to hold this special snorkel event for us at Tea House Reef, Ricketts Point, where people could learn to snorkel or brush up on their skills.

We had a great range of participants – the youngest being 10 years old. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive.

We thank Kade Mills from VNPA, a wonderful advocate for our marine environment, for providing us with this opportunity, and AJ Morton and his team of experienced snorkel leaders from environmentally and conservation-focused Dive2U for the great experience. Dive2U are professional trainers and providers of snorkel and dive experience. They provided snorkel gear, including masks, wetsuits, etc for those who didn't have any, and had never snorkelled previously.

See more about both organizations at <https://vnpa.org.au/> and <https://www.dive2u.com/>



Various participants preparing for their snorkel and listening to briefing



The three leaders from Dive2U divided participants into 3 groups of 10 people, and provided further briefing in-water before setting off



While husband Matt picked up more snorkelling tips from Dive2U, our Treasurer Fiona preferred playing with her bucket and spade on the beach. Snorkel Co-Ordinator David Langmead looked on, mystified.

Snorkelling Season

We've been very lucky this year to have had great weather conditions, so that we haven't had to cancel any snorkels. We've also visited a variety of spots around the Sanctuary. Our new snorkel leaders have been consistent attendees, and our more experienced snorkel leaders continue to provide support and assistance to new snorkelers and our newer leaders. Snorkelling can be a wonderfully meditative experience, as well as giving you the opportunity to explore the delights of our Sanctuary. If you haven't tried snorkelling previously, please contact our Snorkel Co-ordinator David Langmead on 0418 389 212 about joining in this season.

Speakers Events - 2021

2020 was such a strange year in terms of how we were allowed to connect, and what facilities we could use, and requirements changed constantly. We held only 2 member's meetings and talks by presenters in 2020, both by Zoom. These were a great success, and attracted large audiences. Many members who could not normally attend our evening meetings in person zoomed in. Zoom is easy to use and most people cottoned on pretty quickly. As one member remarked, the phrase of the year for 2020 was "You're on mute!!"

We had hoped to get back to more face-to-face meetings at the Seniors Centre, Beaumaris, but the recent outbreaks of COVID in NSW and Qld have stymied our first, February meeting, at the Seniors Centre.

So we've now organized our February Speakers Night as a Zoom meeting - to be held on Thursday 4 February at 7.30pm. Our speaker will be Shannon Hurley, from Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA). We'll send you further details separately.

The MCRP Committee think we should continue holding some of our meetings by Zoom, especially the winter ones. We'll include opportunity for some general discussion by members and report backs from the MCRP Committee in these Zoom meetings, as we have always done with our face-to-face meetings.

MCRP Projected Speaker Nights – 2021

First Thursday of each second month, 7.30pm

4 February – Zoom - guest speaker – Shannon Hurley, VNPA

1 April – Beaumaris Seniors Centre (subject to COVID rules) – also our AGM

3 June – Zoom

5 August – Zoom

7 October – Beaumaris Seniors Centre (subject to COVID rules)

2 December – Beaumaris Seniors Centre (subject to COVID rules)

Can you also give me feedback on if you're happy with more Zoom meetings, or would prefer to have meetings in person at night at Beaumaris Seniors Centre.

Beach Patrol 3193

First Saturday of the month – 11am

Hurray!

After the COVID lockdown of 2020, we'll resume our Beach Patrol activities with our first Beach clean at the **Beaumaris Yacht Club at 11am on Saturday 6 February**.

This is in line with easing of Victorian Government COVID restrictions, but we'll still need to practice social distancing and good hygiene.



Our last formal Beach Patrol 3193 was in March 2020.

Being outdoors, and especially by the sea, we will be much less susceptible to the COVID virus, and so it will be much easier to abide by Government requirements and to stay safe.

Beach Patrol Australia also want us to minimize handling, and MCRP has decided, as a once off, to provide regular members of our group a one-off kit of bucket, gloves and pickers. We'll ask members to take their kit home and use them each month.

You are also encouraged to bring your own kit if you prefer.

It will be wonderful to see our beach cleaners again, so come along for a relaxing, friendly beach clean. Our beaches have missed you!!

Other activities

We've continued with our environmental advocacy activities over the last year - these include working with BECAN on Bayside Climate change, advocating to Fisheries and Parks Victoria, and to local state MP Brad Rowsell about poaching and jet skis in the Sanctuary.

BIMAG – Myna birds

Please do your bit to reduce the spread of the terrible pests – the Indian myna bird – an aggressive, introduced bird species which is playing a major role in the disappearance of our native birds.

BIMAG is a local volunteer organisation which provides free traps to Bayside residents, as well as instruction and advice on how to use them in your own back yard.

Location: The Bird Shed – in Cheltenham Park. Plug in the following coordinates into Google Maps to find them:

S 37° 57.918 E 145° 03.065

[or click on this link.](#)

Opening hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat 4-5pm

Website: <http://bimag.weebly.com/>

Further information: Contact BIMAG Coordinator – geoff@jamieson.id.au

Marine Care Ricketts Point acknowledges the Boon wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the waters and lands around Ricketts Point. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.