



# Marine Care Ricketts Point

## NEWSLETTER

[www.marinecare.org.au](http://www.marinecare.org.au)

Issue 72

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### Folks

We've received great news that Bayside Council has agreed to ban smoking in some areas of Bayside, particularly the beaches and around Ricketts Point and the Brighton Sand dunes. They are also looking at extending the ban further along the foreshore. See details below.

Next week is National Volunteers Week 18- 24 May. Thank you all to the many members who contribute to our organisation and the preservation and education about our Ricketts Point Sanctuary. Check out our Facebook page on how to give a virtual wave to all volunteers.

It seems in this time of social distancing, people are able to get out by themselves and walk and spend some time in quiet solitude.

So they take some wonderful photos of the Sanctuary and elsewhere along our coast.

Now might also be the time to explore some other parts of our magnificent Bayside coastline you don't normally visit.

The Bureau of Meteorology tells us we've had more rain in Victoria so far in 2020 this year than in the whole of last year.

Thanks goodness! Especially after our horrendous bushfires.

This newsletter contains just a few photos of what we've seen at the Sanctuary, together with other areas so close by in the Bay, during the wild weeks of wind and squally weather of early May.

***Please, do keep sending us your photos and videos of what you're seeing and experiencing. It helps keep us all in touch. Send them to Alison Horton [ali.horton62@gmail.com](mailto:ali.horton62@gmail.com), to post on our Facebook page.***

Stay safe, stay well.

**Beth Jensen**  
**President**

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, was largely responsible for the Victorian Government declaring the area a marine sanctuary.

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## Bayside Council commits to banning smoking on Bayside Beaches – and will consider further bans around the foreshore area

We are very pleased to report that, following widespread community demand, Bayside Council at its April 2020 meeting unanimously declared all Bayside beaches, Ricketts Point area and the Brighton Sand Dunes smoke-free. Cr Laurie Evans and Cr del Porto were instrumental in this action. Well done to Council.

In addition, Council will consider the possible extension of the smoke free zone to all foreshore reserve areas (considering the inclusion or exclusion of car park areas) on the western side of Beach Road, between Charman Road Beaumaris and Head Street Brighton as part of the complete review of Local Law No: 2.

Vicki Karalis from Sandringham Foreshore Association (SFA) has long advocated for this extension, and MCRP has supported her position. (See our attached letter to Council.) Vicki has now arranged for Council officers to meet with SFA and other groups, including MCRP, to discuss this extension.

As you know, as MCRP Beach Patrol 3193, we pick up endless amounts of cigarette butts, not just on the beach, but in the surrounding foreshore area and car parks.

We'll keep you posted on progress!



Here's an example of children from MCRP 3193 Beach Patrol picking up 400 butts in one hour on a wet and windy day at Half Moon Bay car park in February 2020. Over many years, our two largest collections of litter are cigarette butts and single use plastics.

## Bayside Council Annual Community Grants

These are now open – go on-line to see how to apply.

But look below at what photo they've chosen to advertise the grants – some of our great our MCRP 3193 Beach Patrol members who have contributed over the years to this great work!



Seaweed Beach, or Watkins Bay, with South Triangle Reef in the distance. Note Covid warning on the steel railings.



**David Langmead, our MCRP Snorkel Co-ordinator, checking out South Triangle Reef on a wild and wet May day.**



**The disabled ramp at Ricketts Point, covered in jellyfish and rack (bits of seaweed and other marine plant life) after a big wind surge in early May. Rack on the beach area an important source of food and habitat for bird and other marine life.**



See the photo on the right: Is this a totem of an ancient protector of the land around the Red Bluff-Half Moon Bay area?

## Other News

### History of our Marine National Parks

VNPA have completed a series of 6 podcasts to capture the social history that led to the creation of Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries in Victoria.

Listen or download the 6-episode podcast on their website:

[www.vnpa.org.au/marine-national-parks-podcast](http://www.vnpa.org.au/marine-national-parks-podcast)

### Florian Schneider

Sadly, co-founder and keyboardist of the influential German electronic music group **Kraftwerk**, died on 6 May at age 73 of cancer. Amongst his works was *Stop Plastic Pollution in the Ocean*.

Hear the song on the links below

[https://www.google.com/search?q=schnieder+stop+plastic+pollutionin+the+ocean+song&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enAU811AU811&oq=schnieder+stop+plastic+pollutionin+the+ocean+song&aqs=chrome..69j57.22943j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=schnieder+stop+plastic+pollutionin+the+ocean+song&rlz=1C1CHBF_enAU811AU811&oq=schnieder+stop+plastic+pollutionin+the+ocean+song&aqs=chrome..69j57.22943j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7KwP-PZdHI>

### **Melbourne City Council, Resilience, and Creating Urban Forests**

Melbourne City Council has employed a resilience officer since 2015, as part of its program to improve liveability in the City, and to prepare for future shocks and stresses. Rapid population growth and climate change are just two of the issues it is grappling with. Their 2016 Resilience Plan has three flagship actions – one of which is the development of an urban forest.

It is good to see that Bayside Council in December 2019 also committed to an Urban Forrest Strategy to help improve liveability in Bayside – it will be important to see what that strategy looks like, and how it compares to Melbourne City Council's actions. (See *The Age*, 19 April, 2020 for further details.)

### **Leisure Fishers helping Save Giant Kelp in Tasmania**

Giant kelp forests once dominated Tasmania's eastern coastline, providing habitat for thousands of marine species. However, over the last 40 years they have been almost destroyed by warmer waters pushing south and bringing predators that eat on the kelp.

Recreational fishers are helping Tasmanian scientists track where remnant kelp is still growing, so that scientists can breed and seed these more resistant kelp, and thus help restore these magnificent marine forests.

### **Warming and salinity of estuaries in NSW**

The *Nature Communications* journal published research showing that estuaries in NSW have warmed more than 2 ° in the last 12 years. In addition, they have become more acidic. Scientists speculate this may be due to less rainfall, which meant minerals were diluting less. (See *The Age* 15 April 2020 for further details.)

### **Native Logging contributes to bushfires**

A report published in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* concludes that not only is climate change causing worsening bushfires, but that increased logging of native forests is also a factor. Our forests have become more fire-prone from logging because of increased debris and fuel load, changes to forest composition, growth of more flammable saplings, allowing in more sunlight and wind, and drying out damp wet areas of land which harbour tree ferns etc.

Consequently, large areas of logged and regenerated forest in South East Australia has repeatedly burnt in the past 25 years.

The scientists recommended that logging should come only from plantations, not native forests.

Despite this, the Victorian Government's logging agency, VicForests, intends to log 3,500 hectares of forests burnt in last summer's catastrophic fire. (For full details, see *The Age* of 6 May.)