Marine Care Ricketts Point NEWSLETTER

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"Folks

MCRP would like to acknowledge our long-time editor, Ray Lewis, OAM who has stepped down as editor. Ray will be devoting more time to the many other projects in his life that the Bayside community will continue to hear about. We thank Ray most sincerely for the time and effort he has put into our MCRP Newsletter, his long contribution in this role, and his many other contributions to our organisation.

As part of the handover, we've made some changes to the look of the Newsletter. We do hope that you like the new format. We'll experiment a bit further with layout and content, so please let us know what you think.

We'd love to receive member's photos and stories about the Sanctuary and your activities in it, or related marine issues. Please feel free to email them to me below."

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MARINE CARE RICKETTS POINT

Marine Care Ricketts Point (MCRP) is the organisation which 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 Park.

Incorporated Registered Charity A0043690H | ABN 58 898 180 989

UPCOMING EVENTS

GREAT VICTORIAN FISH COUNT (GVFC) – 23 NOV

Our annual GVFC snorkel will be held this year on 23 November at Teahouse Reef, Ricketts Point (weather permitting), in conjunction with Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA).

We are the only organisation which has completed the Count every year since its inception.

This is another great citizen science event. No counting experience necessary. We'll show you how.

Gayle Kiteley, as she's done for several years, will organise the event, and supply VNPA's free celebratory T-shirts. The T-shirt emblem this year is the ornate cowfish.

We're hoping for a great turnout, as usual.

NATURE FOR LIFE RALLY – 28 NOV

Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) is holding a Nature for Life rally on 28 November 12pm-2pm, on the steps of Parliament House, Spring St, to seek more respect, care and protection for nature. They're asking all environmental and community groups and individuals to join them.

VNPA devotes one whole section of its organisation to marine environment issues and has been a great partner to us for many years.

VNPA advocates for greater protection for several species threatened by development, including our beautiful shorebird, the Hooded Plover.

This threatened species and its chicks, is at risk of being crushed by the pounding hooves of commercial racehorses training along its nesting sites on beaches between Warrnambool and Port Fairy.

Please support this peaceful and worthy cause.

More details at:
www.facebook.com/events/901003676966816

DRAGON QUEST

VNPA is on a mission to determine the population of Weedy Seadragons around Port Phillip and Western Port bays.

They need your help!

All you need to do is submit images that have clear side-profile shots of Weedy Seadragons and let them know where it was taken. Images can be from any time in the last 10 years.

Weedy Seadragons are the Victorian marine emblem and one of our most popular fish. The only place on earth they are found is in the waters of southern Australia.

More information here:
http://vnpa.org.au/programs/dragon-quest/?fbclid=IwAR2uwghJkF3cIiEuTcj5fmzGdZP7IyrIuMMR4Snqul_YLqjM98JkhYUqfkc

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/END OF YEAR BBQ – SAT 7 DEC, 11.30AM TEAHOUSE GARDENS

Put this in the diary!

Come along – join us, catch up with old friends and celebrate what we've done this year. It's free.

Our annual Christmas BBQ for MCRP and Beach Patrol 3193 members will be held on the first Saturday in December in the Teahouse gardens at Ricketts Point (subject to weather conditions).

Catering will be by Gayle and Jinty. Gayle's exceptional culinary skills are well known. There will be a feast of salads, vegetarian delights, and some fish and meat.

We thank them both for the work they do to make this BBQ so special.

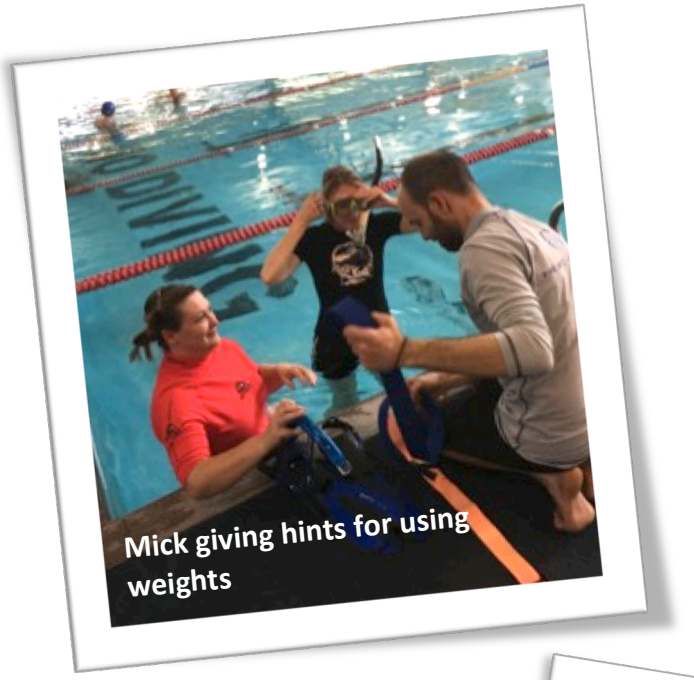
All food supplied, BUT if you have special dietary requirements please bring your own as we are unable to cater for all needs.
Please bring: your own drinks, chair and in deference to the environment, reusable cutlery, plates, drink ware etc.

MCRP SPEAKERS EVENING – TUES 12 DEC, 7.30PM BEAUMARIS SENIORS CENTRE

Come hear this wonderful talk!

Our speaker is Dr. Vicki Karalis, a respected medical practitioner and President of the Sandringham Foreshore Association. Vicki will talk about our beautiful Beaumaris Bay and its unique paleontological, geological, artistic and indigenous values.

RECENT EVENTS



Mick giving hints for using weights

SNORKEL REFRESHER TRAINING IN THE POOL – OCT

Our thanks to Amy, Terry and Mick, three of our most experienced snorkel leaders – all wonderful teachers. They led refresher training at Swim Right Pool, Cheltenham in October, to get people ready for our snorkel season.

The members loved it, and it's made them feel much more confident in the water.

Terry and Amy instructing on snorkel and mask techniques

SPRING SEA SEARCH

Thank goodness, Parks Vic rescheduled our Spring Sea Search at South Triangle Reef from 19 Oct, due to 48 km wind gusts. But the kite surfers loved it.

NEWS

BAYSIDE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION – 17 DEC

At their December 2019 Council meeting, Bayside Council will consider upgrading its current Climate Change Strategy and the merits of declaring a Climate Emergency. Councillors, including Southern Ward Councillors Clarke Martin (now Mayor) and Laurie Evans have expressed strong concern about the effect of climate change on the environment and on health, particularly that of older people and children, as a result of more extreme weather events.

BCCAG has been the lead advocate on this issue, and collected thousands of signatures for a petition in support of the declaration.

Council's actions are in line with many other Councils across Australia, which see a declaration as an important signal for strong bipartisan action on climate change, and an opportunity to upgrade their own activities.

You can also attend the Council meeting on 17 December to listen to this historic debate.

VICTORIA'S PLASTIC BAG BAN – FROM 1 NOV

The Victorian Government banned single-use plastic bags by retailers from 1 November. This is a great outcome for the environment. However, even before 1 November, many retailers had eliminated plastic bags.

There will be a grace period while some retailers use up the plastic bags they've already ordered. If you see retailers doing the right thing, please complement them if you can.

If you're concerned about making the move yourself to using fewer single-use plastics, please see the Victorian government's website at https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/PlasticBags for ideas.

NEWS, continued…

NZ PARLIAMENT PASSES ZERO CARBON BILL UNANIMOUSLY – 7 NOV

In a magnificent show of political leadership, the NZ Parliament passed unanimously a bill to radically reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050.

The Government's Climate Change Minister, James Shaw, worked with the Opposition National Party to create a bipartisan bill that both sides of politics could accept. Both sides made compromises. The intention is that, whichever side is in power over the next 30 years, policy settings on this critical issue will remain the same, thus creating certainty and opportunity for business, the workforce and the broader community.

https://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/climate-change/jacinda-ardern-gives-inspiring-speech-as-new-zealand-passes-historic-climate-change-law/news-story/84fa59ac85f9d509532cdadb6308a990

CLIMATE CRISIS: 11,000 SCIENTISTS WARN OF 'UNTOLD SUFFERING'

11,000 scientists from 153 countries have declared a climate emergency and warned that "untold human suffering" is unavoidable without huge shifts in the way we live.

The Climate Emergency Declaration was in the form of an open letter published in *BioScience* in November 2019. Dr. Thomas Newsome from the University of Sydney is a Lead Author. "Climate change has arrived and is accelerating faster than many scientists expected," the letter stated.

The letter proposes six key objectives to ward off the dire predictions:

- Replacing fossil fuels
- Cutting pollutants like methane and soot
- Restoring and protecting ecosystems
- Eating less meat
- Converting the economy to one that is carbon-free; and
- Stabilising population growth.

Perhaps we can all think about what we can do personally to help make the change.

BAYSIDE COUNCIL'S FOOD RECYCLING SERVICE – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Bayside Council is seeking feedback on their new food and green waste recycling service.
By putting our food scraps, leftovers, and green waste into the food and green waste bin instead, we're transforming these materials into compost, and reducing landfill and greenhouse gases produced by rotting food while also creating a valuable resource for Victorian farmers.

Council wants to hear from you on how you're using the service, or the reasons why you don't use it.

You can provide feedback by filling out this short, two-minute survey. Please follow the link below:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3DMPDJ8

TEA TREES AND OUR SNAPPER

From early October, our beautiful tea trees began to bloom around Ricketts Point and the Bay. This was the signal that the magnificent red snapper were returning to our shores.

PEACOCK SPIDER

Another beautiful photo from John Eichler, John found several male peacock spiders in the 'Triangle Reef' carpark, Ricketts Point in late October. These very small 4mm peacock spiders appear to be predominantly coastal.

Photo credit: Matt Testoni photography
https://www.instazu.com/media/2174474841322128051

DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

DATES	WHAT	WHERE
November 16, 9am	**Summer Snorkel Season Begins**	TBA
November 23, 9am	**Great Victorian Fish Count & Snorkel**	Beaumaris Yacht Club
November 30, 9am	Great Victorian Fish Count & Snorkel	McGregors Rock
December 7, 9am	Snorkel	Beaumaris Yacht Club
December 7, 11am	**3193 Beach Patrol**	Beaumaris Yacht Club
December 7, 11.30am	**Christmas BBQ**	Teahouse Gardens
December 10, 7.30pm	**Guest Speaker Dr. Vicki Karalis**	Seniors Centre, Beaumaris
December 14, 9am	Snorkel	TBA
December 21, 9am	Snorkel	TBA
December 28, 9am	Snorkel	TBA

Note: Details of events are contained separately in this newsletter or sent to members by individual email.

Or send queries to Beth: elizabethjjensen@ooutlook.com

SUMMER SNORKELLING PROGRAM

Our official Summer Snorkelling Program runs each year from mid-November to end March. It's held every Saturday morning, 9am, *subject to weather conditions*.

We notify members where in the Sanctuary the snorkel will be held by email on Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

To snorkel with us, you must be a financial member of MCRP.

Our website provides extensive information about snorkelling with us, snorkelling hints generally, and good locations in the Sanctuary.

Go to: http://marinecare.org.au/snorkelling/

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