



Marine Care Ricketts Point

NEWSLETTER

www.marinecare.org.au

Issue 76

October 2020

Folks

Given the long lock-down, we recently held two Zoom speaker nights - on 10 September and 24 September – to keep in touch with members and friends. The speakers – Mark Rodrigue from Parks Victoria and Jenny Warfe from the Blue Wedges Campaign, were exciting speakers.

These events were both a great success, and had excellent numbers.

Our Committee has organised a marine-trivia Halloween event on Thursday 29 November as a nod to Halloween.

If we do not see a lot of easing of Covid-19 restrictions after 23 October, we will look at holding more Zoom meetings. Stay tuned.

We are still hopeful we will be able to start our snorkelling program on time, in mid November, but will have to wait to see what the government decides on Covid 19.

We are still waiting to see when we can open up for Beach Patrol 3193 again.

Stay safe, stay well

Beth

Elizabeth Jensen

President

M 0419 354 998

E elizabethjensen@outlook.com

Shalloween event – Thurs 29 Oct 7pm -8pm

Join us for a fun, alternative, Halloween event! As we haven't been able to connect in person lately, Marine Care Ricketts Point is hosting a social Zoom trivia night this Halloween. It's free and open to all Marine Care Ricketts Point members.

The event will run from 7 pm on Thursday the 29th of October.

You're welcome to don a costume and/or a Halloween-y Zoom background or just join us for some marine-themed trivia and a chance to catch up with everyone.

When: 7 pm till around 8 pm 29th October (members are, of course, welcome to stay on the zoom event for an informal chat after the trivia)

Where: Zoom

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

Bring: A pen and note pad. Costumes optional

To join: Click this link or copy it into your browser <https://zoom.us/j/92915996319>

Collaboration with RMIT on contaminants in plastics

In September we collaborated with RMIT and Neil Blake, the Baykeeper at the Ecocentre by collecting samples of nurdles and other small pieces of plastics at Ricketts Point for RMIT to see if any chemical contaminants the plastics are carrying may give clues as to which waterway they were in before escaping into the Bay.

Samples were collected from Brighton, Ricketts Point, Seaford, Frankston, Canadian Bay and Mt Martha. With a view to tracking contaminants to their source catchment, the hope for the project is to see if there are specific contaminants turning up at one of these sites but not others which may prompt further investigation.



Many thanks to our intrepid Horton family who collected nurdle and small plastics RMIT

Update on Foxes around Ricketts Point:

You'll remember we mentioned a member brought to our attention dead penguins and wondered if they were being attacked around Ricketts Point.

Parks Victoria ranger Ellie followed up with Bayside City Council, which advised that foxes were an escalating problem across Melbourne. Here's part of Council's reply:

"Thank you for your recent inquiry to Bayside City Council regarding foxes at Ricketts Point. We are doing some fumigation next week, hopefully whilst the cubs are still in the dens. It is certainly an escalating problem and we can only try and keep the numbers down."

This is excellent news for birds and other wildlife in the area, but worrying about how much the fox population is spreading across Melbourne.

Ranger Ellie has asked people to keep sending reports to her at Parks Victoria or to Bayside Council, as such reports will help keep things under control.

Are Our National and Marine Parks closed? – that depends

Parks Victoria advise most of our parks and marine sanctuaries are still open. This includes Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

However, individuals must ensure they follow covid restrictions when visiting (so as of mid October in Melbourne people can't travel more than 5km from their home/ work to visit a park, and not for more than 2 hrs). That means many of us can't get to the Sanctuary at the moment. (Including me!)

This link <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/covid-19-update> provides a list of parks that are currently closed due to COVID restrictions. You'll notice that they are parks that are ones where physical distancing can't be maintained, or where people congregate in large groups in a small area (for example the penguin viewing area of the St Kilda Breakwater is closed – Parks Vic get 1000's of people some nights so restrictions on physical distancing and groups could not be managed on that site.

Our Summer Snorkelling season 14 Nov – 27 March (subject to Covid restrictions)

It is still touch and go how many restrictions will be lifted by 26 October and later. However, if the Government eases the 5km rule and the number of people who can be together outdoors, we may be able to start our snorkelling season on the usual dates, which will tentatively start from 14 November 2020 and run through to 27 March 2021. So if you need new gear, now's the time to think about it. Adreno on the Nepean Highway near Southland is a large local supplier, Ocean Divers at East Boundary Road East Bentleigh is also worth a look, as is Suba Diver in Sorrento. (Most are doing mail order at the moment.) Or you can look for second hand equipment on Gumtree or Ebay.

Does anyone want to sell or give way the following snorkel equipment?

One of our female MCRP Committee members is looking for good second-hand snorkel gloves, hoodie and neoprene socks (US size 8). If you are not using yours anymore, could you contact me elizabethjensen@outlook.com and I can put you in touch with her?

The snapper return when the Teatrees bloom

Local lore has it that when the teatrees bloom, the snapper return. As you can see, the teatrees are all out in bloom along Ricketts Point Sanctuary.



Diving with sharks

Mark Rodrigue from Parks Vic shared this great 2 minute video of diving with sharks in the Caribbean. Because it's a 360 degree video, you can change the angle of viewing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNChunf5RKQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG4jSz_2HDY&pp=QAA%3D

My Octopus Teacher - Netflix

This is a highly recommended documentary for those who have Netflix about a man who makes friends with an octopus off the coast of South Africa. The insight into this cephalopod is extraordinary and so moving.

Peregrine Falcons at 367 Collins St Melbourne

Thousands of fans have been glued to the 24-hour livestream on a dedicated website to catch a glimpse of the 3 new hatchlings from this famous pair's nest. The nest has been there for nearly 3 decades. The chicks get fed every hour or two by the parents. Peregrines hunt birds on the wing like sparrows, starlings and pigeons to feed to their young. To watch the live stream visit www.367collinsfalcons.com.au

David Attenborough on species decline

Here's a link to David Attenborough's confronting production about the world's dramatic species decline.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11qDVYXP4Z5jes4unjB6iZ3e3TXJmbNk8/view?usp=sharing>

Also see his latest film *A Life on Our Planet*, aptly described as Sir David's witness statement for the natural world and his vision for the future. Most notably, the film describes the "monumental scale of environmental change caused by human actions" <https://www.attenboroughfilm.com/>



This article above appeared in *The Age* on 11 September, and paints a sad story of 2/3 decline of all wildlife around the world over the last 50 years, with grim predictions for the future, based on the long-running *Living Planet* report from World Wide Fund For Nature.

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.