



Marine Care Ricketts Point

NEWSLETTER

www.marinecare.org.au

Issue 75

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Folks

So now, happily, we are in spring, and days are getting longer and warmer.

I know we'll all be so glad when this Covid 4 shutdown is loosened, hopefully on 13 September, and we can start to get back to a slightly more normal life.

All land and marine parks have been closed to all volunteer activities until further notice. So our 3193 Beach Patrol and any organised snorkel activities have stopped.

Like many members, the 5km limit means that I can't go down to see Ricketts Point since that lockdown began, although I've heard lots of news from those lucky enough to still get there.

This second Covid 4 lockdown also means we still can't have our usual two-monthly face-to-face speakers evenings at Beaumaris Seniors Centre.

So we have now decided to trial some speaker evenings by Zoom. To juggle the changes, make up for this big break, and to obtain excellent speakers, our two-monthly norm has gone out the window.

We've organised two Zoom speaker nights in September.

Please Zoom in, enjoy a night seeing and listening to these exciting speakers, and see some old friends you might not have seen for a long time. Further details below.

Although we've been in lockdown, there has still been plenty happening for us – some of this is in this latest newsletter.

Keep safe, keep well

Beth

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President

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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

MCRP FREE Zoom Speaker Nights: 10 September and 24 September, 7.30pm

When: Thursday 10 Sept 7.30pm

Who: Mark Rodrigue, State-Wide Leader for Marine and Coasts, Parks Victoria

Topic: Opportunities and Challenges for Port Phillip's Marine Protected Areas. Mark has enormous knowledge of and is an incredibly inspiring speaker on our Victorian coastal areas. This presentation will provide a pictorial overview of the key values, threats and opportunities for Port Phillip Bay's three Marine Sanctuaries and its Marine National Park.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92825480681>

Meeting ID: 928 2548 0681

When: Thursday 24 Sept 7.30pm (in conjunction with BCCAG)

Who: Jenny Warfe, Marine environmentalist who campaigned through her Blue Wedges to protect Port Philip Bay from dredging

Topic: Threats to the health of Port Phillip Bay and Westernport. Jenny is a very exciting speaker who will speak on changes to Port Phillip Bay and also the significant risks of the proposed floating gas terminal in Western Port Bay.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2150874996>

(No meeting ID required)

NOTE: If you're having trouble with Zooming in, our ever-helpful Alison (m 0408 558 889) has offered to help. Please Zoom in at least 5 minutes before the start of 7.30pm so that you can set yourself up properly.

Bayside Council – extending cigarette ban to whole of Bayside foreshore

Bayside Council is asking for your views on extending the current ban on smoking on our beaches to the whole of the Bayside foreshore. **As a Beach Patrol group which picks up endless cigarette butts, MCRP and BP 3193 is very much in favour of this extension of the ban, including to car parks along the foreshore (where we pick up many of our butts!)**

Please go to <https://yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/locallaw/new-local-law-ideas> to make your comment about extending the smoking ban. You will be taken to a page titled Bayside's Local Law No 2, which asks for comments on several issues, including the smoking ban. *Comments close mid-September 2020, so please make your comments soon.*



For those of us not lucky enough to be able to get to Ricketts Point because of the 5km limit, here's a photo of one of our long-time and very generous members, Steffie, who has decided to take to the streets on a 3 wheeler to keep up her fitness. (Three wheelers are also excellent for any adults with balance issues!)



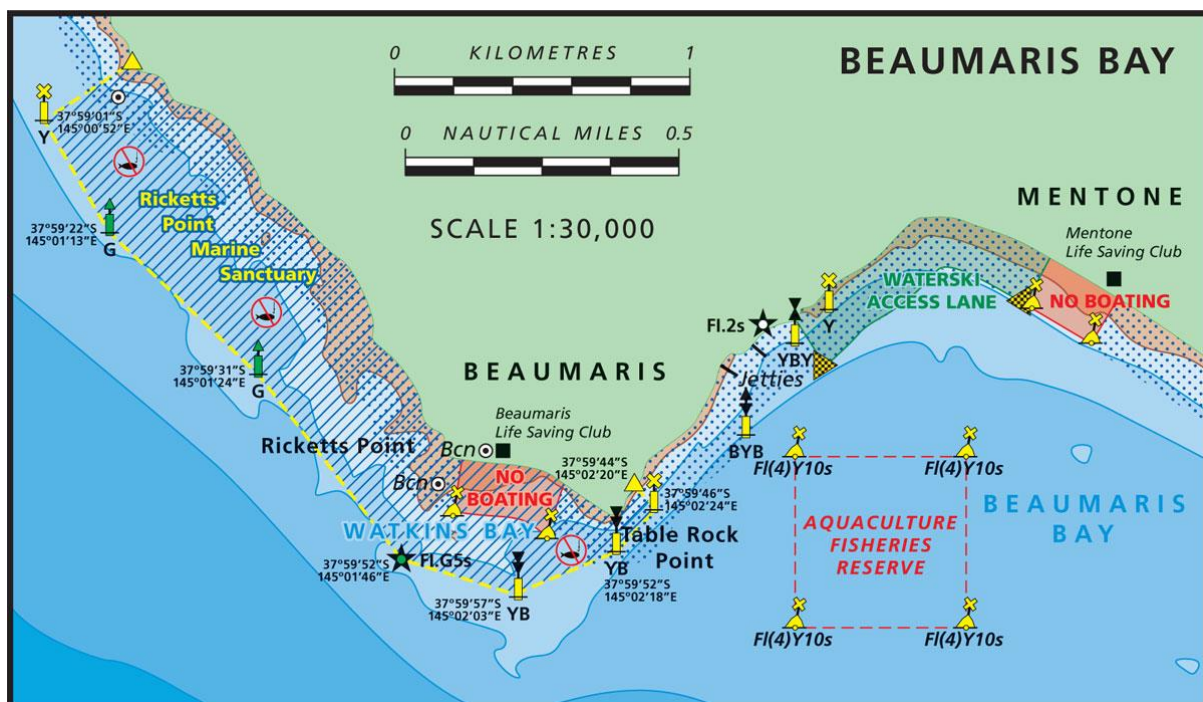
Former Treasurer MCRP Kim Wright with his kayak at the disabled ramp at Ricketts Point on a beautiful late May day, just before our recent lockdown again.

Marker Buoys around Ricketts Point

Our July newsletter mentioned reports of marker buoys delineating the Sanctuary moving with ocean movements. We took this up with our Parks Vic Ranger Ellie, who quickly got on to it and clarified that it's actually the No Boating markers around the Beaumaris Life Saving Club which have drifted in. This has now been corrected. The Sanctuary Marker Buoys are solidly located and cannot move. Thanks to all for getting this sorted.

Fisheries App – free

Ranger Ellie also said the VFA fishing app would be great for members to download and clearly see the marine sanctuary boundaries when they're on the water (the maps on the app might also be somewhat helpful on land too). The link to this app is <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-guide/recreational-fishing-application-for-smartphones>. Here's some great detail below. The yellow dotted line shows the limits of the Sanctuary, from about Forth St Beaumaris and ending south at the Sea Scouts Jetty.



Parks Victoria Patrols

Our lovely Parks Victoria ranger, Ellie, says they are doing regular patrols of Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary during the covid period, which is great. It's always good to have the rangers out and about and for members of the public to see them and be able to talk to them.

Foxes at Ricketts Point

A member has reported she's seen 3 penguins killed at Ricketts Point by foxes.

Sara reported it to Parks Victoria, and I've also spoken to Parks Victoria, and also to our member Ivan, who spends so much time at Ricketts and also with the little penguins colony at St Kilda. Ivan says he's seen penguins gathering sometimes at Quiet Corner. He and Parks Victoria both say they've seen bodies of dead penguins wash up on the shore, but they appear to be old and in bad condition. Neither has seen any nesting sites for penguins along the Ricketts area, and they think it's possible dogs or foxes might drag the bodies up into the bushes to eat them.

However, as a result of Sara's report, Parks Victoria will liaise with Bayside Council to try to arrange some night cameras to see what foxes are around Ricketts Point and possibly then trap them. (Noting that the Sanctuary foreshore above the high water mark is managed by Bayside Council.)

Ellie from Parks Victoria also provided this very helpful information:

We do run fox control programs on occasion in some of our areas. As some background - we ran a fox control program two years ago in the Jawbone Flora and Fauna Reserve. We deemed this successful in removing the resident population of four at the time and had a period of no observed fox activity of two months. Unfortunately, within three months fox activity bounced straight back to pre-program levels. Effectively foxes from nearby land just moved into the area and utilised the space. Until a large-scale program across all land in the area occurs, removing a few foxes from one area isn't an effective solution or use of resources. When we do run fox control programs, it is with the aim of short-term protection during sensitive wildlife windows (i.e. remove foxes for key breeding season knowing they will come back in a couple of months).

You may be surprised about how many foxes are across Melbourne and the locations where they can be: e.g. train lines, vacant blocks, industrial sites, drains, car parks, council parks, Parks Victoria parks, river and creek channels, laneways.

So it seems the fox problem, like other feral animal issues, needs a city-wide or State wide approach.

Has anyone else got any information about foxes at Ricketts Point that they'd like to pass on?



This reusable face mask on the right was seen at South Triangle Reef during Stage 3 lockdown. Masks are essential, but if you can obtain proper reusable washable cloth face masks, they are much better for the environment.

Banning cigarettes in Victorian National Parks

You'll remember that on 25 June MCRP wrote to Parks Victoria asking them to consider banning cigarettes in Victoria's land national parks, given that discarded cigarettes have been linked to at least one of the terrible Queensland bushfires of the last bushfire season.

You'll be pleased to know that I had a phone call from Parks Victoria to say that they are considering this issue seriously, but need to examine several matters further, thus a delay in response to our letter. That all sounds very positive. We'll keep you updated.

VNPA shared this cartoon description of deep sea mining:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/29/how-bad-can-deep-sea-mining-be-coronavirus-is-going-to-look-like-a-picnic-compared-to-whats-coming>

Various submissions

We provided, with 8 other groups, a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem decline.

We have also been co-signers to a submission to the NSW Government opposing the Narrabri Gas fracking project, and to the Victorian Government opposing the establishment of a Gas import terminal at Cribb Point, which would have a devastating effect on the sea grasses and marine life in the area.

Climate Change – Positive news

In a first, the National Farmers Federation (NFF) has called for Australia to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. This is a more ambitious target than the current Federal Current target. The red meat industry, which represents farmers who collectively own more than 80% of farmland in Australia, has been investing since 2017 in measures to achieve net zero by 2030. A member of NFF, Farmers for Climate Action chair Lucinda Corrigan, said "In business if you don't set goals you never get anywhere ... often it's a case of politics catching up to the leading edge." *The Age*, 20 August 2020

Good news - Suncorp Insurance has called for stimulus measures to mitigate the effects of climate change. Bad news - Household insurance is expected to rise by about 5%, due to wild weather becoming more frequent and severe. *The Age*, 22 August 2020