

MCRP MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Marine Care Ricketts



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Issue 51 January 2016

The Season Opener - The Great Fish Count



We had 23 attend, and kept up our record of attending every annual GFC since the ideas inception.

Our thanks to Kade Mills of VNPA for his oversight, (and the T shirts) , Gayle Kiteley for organising us this year, and David Langmae for the dive briefing.

We find the event being held in late November each year, to be just a little early for the presence of many species in

in our sanctuary, but still of great value as a benchmark for over some 12 (?) years now.

A Social Page



In October, a small group of leading Bayside environmentalists, met our local Federal MP Tim Wilson, at the Bayside Nursery, for a coffee and a chat about local issues.

The land, the sea, birds and fossils were all well represented.



An MCRP Saturday morning at the Tea House



Above Fran and Peter Dedrick at the Tea House. They will be moving on in January and their contributions over some 13 years, will be really missed. We wish them well for the future. **Left.** Public meeting at Council to present local environmental awards, Bayside values its volunteers.



At our December Members Meeting, at which had 40 present, we had the privilege of hearing a professional lecture on ***Rogue Waves Myths and Facts***, by Ass Prof Alessandro Toffoli of Melbourne University.

A series of such unique and higher profile talks is in train. Due to the value of this series, we have opened up the events to non members as well. Do let your friends know.

Nairm Notes



The fish are back and all we need now is to get some calm weather and good water visibility co-ordinated, so as to have great snorkelling season. If you are in to praying, do ask for some divine help for future Saturday mornings, as, for the past few years, we have had to cancel too many times.

Here left is what is waiting for us, a female Banjo shark in the shallows from Clementine Heath

Bert Parker has taken possession of a marine support chair, for disabled snorkelers to both get in and out of the water and for some to be wheeled along the beaches and shallows. For those who may be interested, Bert has a Disabled Summer by the Sea event from 10.00 am on Wednesday the 11th January at the disabled ramp. Bookings essential if you wish to do more than watch.



Council contractors Citywide, who have done such a splendid job of the natural landscaping of the Tea House Park, and Bayside-wide bush areas) hold an annual thank you BBQ for the many landside volunteers. About 80 or so attended last week.

Eclectic — Blue Bottles and Wind Sailors

In early December we had a 'blue bottle event' with uncountable numbers washed up on Bayside and other beaches. There were two species, Blue Bottles or Portuguese Man o War, (*Physalia physalis*) and By the Sea Sailors (*Vellula vellula*). The Blue bottles, below, can be real stingers at times, although these when tested, only had an hour long tolerable stinging effect.



Both images Susan Carden



Note the long stinging tendrils



Here below, a rare and beautiful image also from Susan. A Blue bottle at Brighton Beach.



Ricketts Point — Landside



While we see our role as custodians of the sea country of the marine sanctuary, we also extend our volunteering reach to the foreshore environment as well

Top left we have an image of male saltbush in the abnormal (at least since 2000) golden flowering (usually rich purple) which is an indicator of an abnormal season ahead. We were right last year with the prolonged balmy summer that led many of the birds and plants to flower twice or more. **Top right** a female salt bush heavy with seed.

And above the now widespread slender velvet bush flowering. It was down to 3 local plants when discovered at the Red Bluff, and revived by the Bayside Nursery.

As part of MESCA's Urban Sanctuary book series (world unique), we are preparing for book number four, which will cover plants and insects. A pair of students from Deakin have already identified, photographed and positioned, hopefully every current plant species along the sanctuary foreshore. Their work is currently being vetted by local experts. This will be as a most valuable benchmark for the future.

This and That



Maddy has been trying to be part of our coffee days at the Tea House, by pretending to read the Sun Herald.

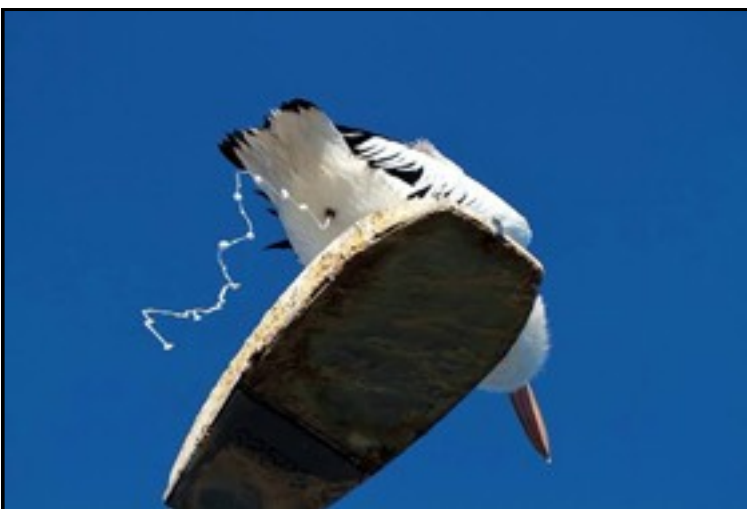
From Dave Moore Parks Vic. Whose note below refers to Peter Dedricks action on seeking clear boat speed signs for the sanctuary.

"I can now advise that Parks Victoria have installed the 5 knot signs on the boundary marks/ piles that make up the seaward boundary of Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary.

I am still awaiting word on the formal gazettal that was due to occur this month. Once this has happened I will liaise the Water Police, Transport Safety Victoria and my Parks Victoria colleagues in order to monitor and enforce speed restrictions within the marine sanctuary.

Thank you again for your patience with this process"

We appreciate this valued response from Dave :-)



What fish is this? Found on the beach by Dave Morley.



This rare image above, from Gillian Rayment needs no explanation. The life of a wildlife photographer does have its lighter, and perhaps, depending on your point of view, serendipitous moments.

The Sanctuary



For those who may be new to our exotic pests, this is the Japanese Sea Star that is a current threat around Victoria. It is however, very rare in our Sanctuary. Probably as it much prefers polluted and still waters, and the sanctuary is reasonably clean and has good daily flow though.

This star here is an exception and was found (and removed under licence) from alongside the Tea House Reef in November. They have an unmistakable purple tinge and turned up arm tips.



Here left is Kade Mills of the VNPA, whom our Kim Wright is working with, in developing a mussel spat collection regime.

While this is a showcase Citizen Science project for us, we do have a number of other less obvious projects continuing behind the scenes.

We have various urban sanctuary book productions, foreshore plant idents and their abundance, the great fish count, intertidal marine life surveys and more.

Citizen Science is increasingly being recognised as a valuable way of keeping our Science moving ahead in the face of Government funding cuts.

We at MCRP and MESAC can have a valued role to play in this space

Marine Care Ricketts Point

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Go to our website .
www.marinecare.org.au

EDITORS NOTE

One never knows what to put into these mailers at the beginning of each two month publishing cycle, but somehow or another, 'stuff' continues to arise and at a steady rate.

If it is all new to you, then you are not engaging yourself, as happily as you might, in our activities!

This newsletter is out few days earlier than its January 1 planned date, and as such it gives us the opportunity to wish everyone Happy Christmas.



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When you find something beachside and cant get help from other members, or your reference books, try an email to Museum Vic who have an [ident service](#).

Left here, a good example that would be too hard for most of us, to identify, a Skeleton Shrimp from Phil Watson

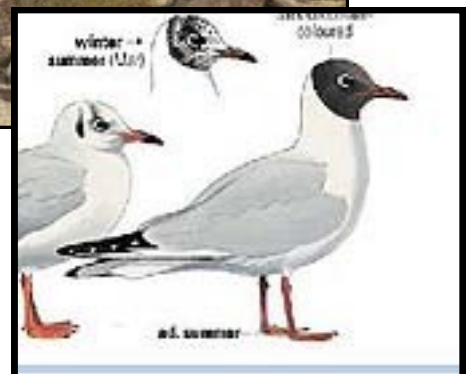
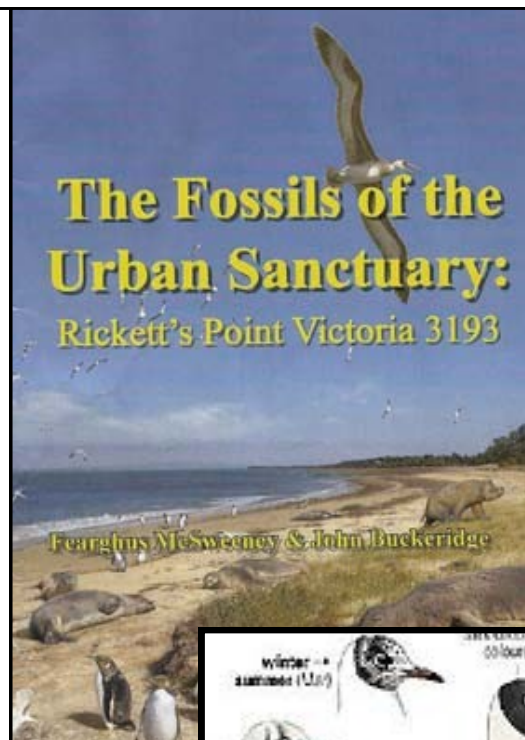
Upcoming Sanctuary Books.

The second in the Urban Sanctuary series concerns our local world class fossil heritage. This book will be available to members of MCRP and MESAC at a discounted price probably in late January 2017.

Also in early 2017, we will be printing the 3rd book in the series *The Urban Sanctuary Foreshore and Sea Birds*.

MCRP will have special batch of these set aside for members also at a discounted price.

Two more books, 2017 -2019 , are planned to complete this world unique series.



STOP PRESS. Keep your eye put for this bird; a rare pacific black gull has just been sighted at St Kilda, and may arrive locally too.

.... Next issue likely March 2017