



Seal ashore at Ricketts



Image Credit: Hakan Dellal, 2021

In September this year as I walked along Ricketts Point in the blustering rain I noticed a section of the beach taped off and wondered what was happening. Upon closer inspection I found a seal and a wildlife rescue volunteer

advising dog walkers to keep their dogs on leads and to be vigilant as there was a male seal who had come ashore for some respite. **Feature article on page 4.**

What have you been noticing this Buath Gurru season?

According to the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Heritage centre the Kulin nation has a detailed local understanding of the seasons and the environment. Each season is marked by the movement of the stars in the night sky and changes in the weather, coinciding with the life cycles of plants and animals. As we enter the season of Buath Gurru – what have you been noticing around you?

What changes have you seen in nature?

~
*Feel the air starting to warm
Enjoy the rain that still cools us
Observe the Kangaroo grass flowering
See fruit on the Kangaroo apple
Appreciate this time of gathering
Finally we are together again with loved ones.*
~

MESAC acknowledges the Boon Wurrung and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters around Rickett's Point.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and we pledge to care for and protect the delicate and diverse life inhabiting this special place.

We also recognise the Traditional Custodians of lands and waters across the globe.



Noctiluca scintillans

Many people have been worried about the appearance of Noctiluca on our local beaches.

Noctiluca scintillans is a marine species of dinoflagellate that can exist in a green or red form, depending on the pigmentation in its vacuoles. It can be found worldwide, but its geographical distribution varies depending on whether it is green or red.

Species: *N. scintillans*

Family: Noctulaceae

Ours in Port Phillip seem to range yellow through to pink.

It appears seasonally and appeared widely along our Bayside foreshores in late October.

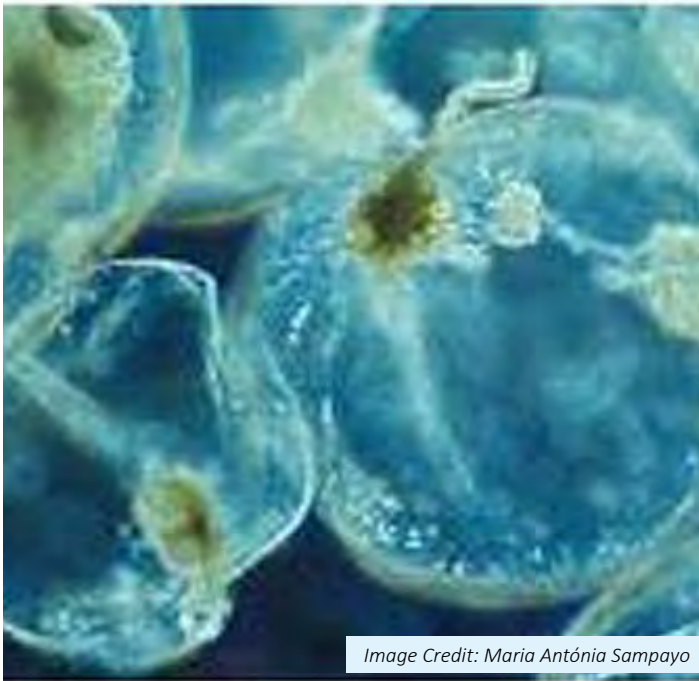


Image Credit: Maria Antónia Sampayo



Image Credit: Ray Lewis



Image Credit: Ray Lewis



Psyllids

Forests psyllids (jumping plant lice or lerp insects) are a common and diverse group of sap-sucking insects (*Hemiptera psyllodea*), related to whiteflies, aphids and scale insects.

Most species appear to be host specific or confined to a group of closely related plants. Adult psyllids (approximately 4 mm long) hold their wings roof-like over their bodies and look a little like miniature cicadas.

Many species are poor fliers and rely on wind for dispersal. Female psyllids generally lay yellow to brown stalked eggs, either singly or in clusters, on leaves or buds. After hatching, the nymphs find suitable feeding sites where they remain, feeding and developing through five nymphal stages, before emerging as adults.

More than 300 species occur in Australia, and there may be two to six generations per year, depending on the species.



Seal ashore at Ricketts

By Claire Bowles

The seal that recently came ashore at Rickett's Point was a male sub adult Australian fur seal. The reasons for his coming ashore could have been injury or simply needing respite. He looked under nourished with his hip bones protruding.

I have since spoken with Hakan Dellal, local Marine Biologist and environmental educator who shared with me the story of the seal. The seal had come ashore between Banksia Point and Ricketts Point, but its condition was unknown. The primary concern was that this is an off leash dog walking area and in the midst of lockdown was a popular spot for walkers. It is well documented that dogs don't take to seals well and vice versa and seals have been known to launch themselves and this could end in a nasty bite.

He had received a call from the Zoos Victoria Marine Wildlife Rescue Unit early in the morning and went down to secure the area. After Bayside City Council were called to provide assistance by putting up a physical perimeter around the seal Hakan then provided the inquisitive public with information and guidance to keep themselves, dogs and the seal safe. It was imperative to let people know not to walk between the seal and the sea and to walk behind the seal. Another volunteer was relied upon to assist across a wet and windy day. Staying with the seal until after 630pm that evening, the relieving volunteer reported the seal had returned himself to the water – a great result all round and no rescue was required.

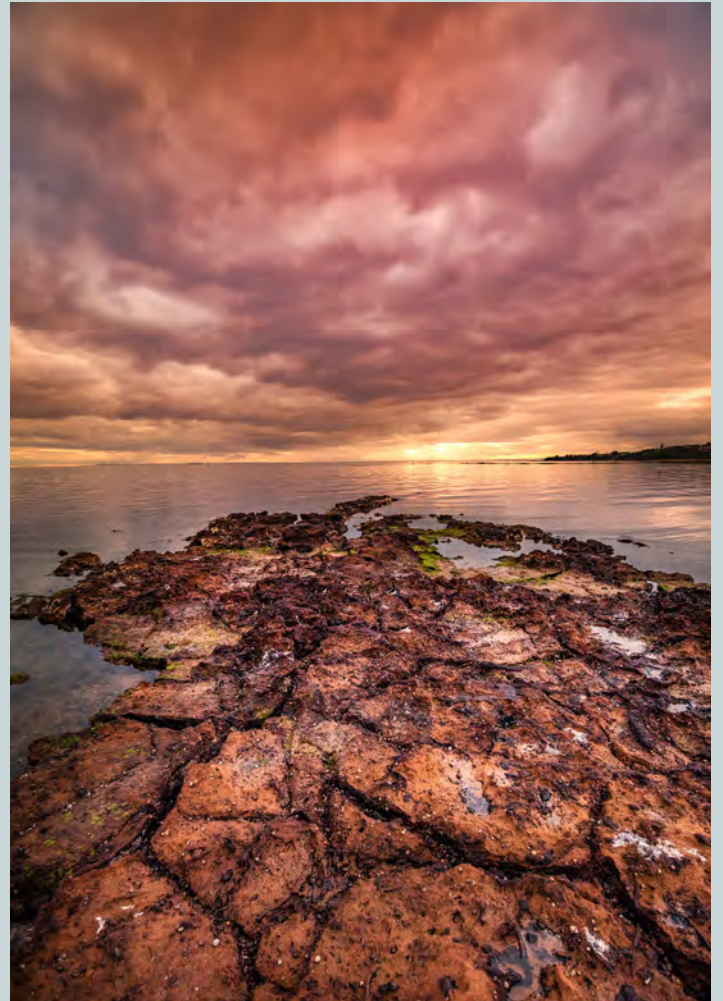


Image Credit: Hakan Dellal, 2021



MESAC's Sense of Place Photo Competition

COVID lockdowns for the last two years have been long and hard for Melburnians. We could feel the heaviness and weariness in peoples' voices, faces and postures with no end in sight.

MESAC's Sense of Place Photo Competition was a refreshing lockdown tonic, designed to get everyone out and about snapping nature and getting some wonderful sea air!

Exploring our beautiful local environment, an appreciation of nature was critical during those difficult COVID lockdown times.

All were welcome, especially amateurs!

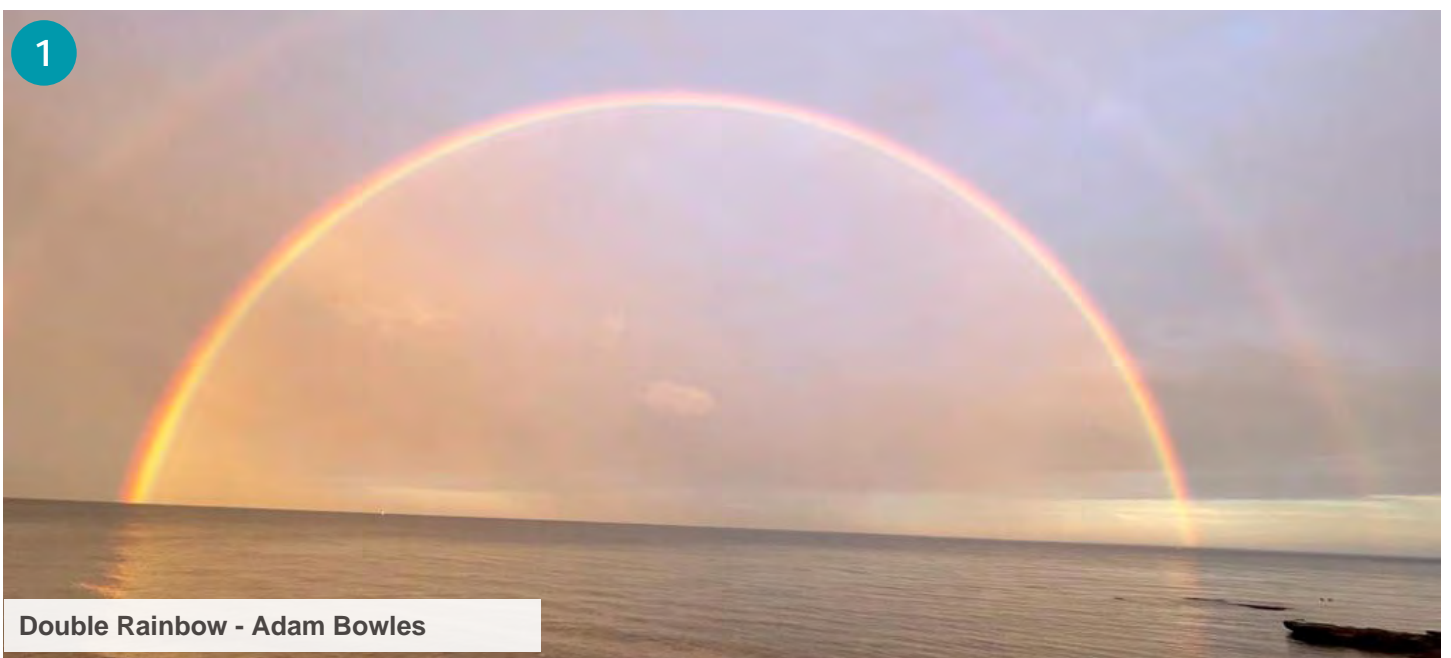
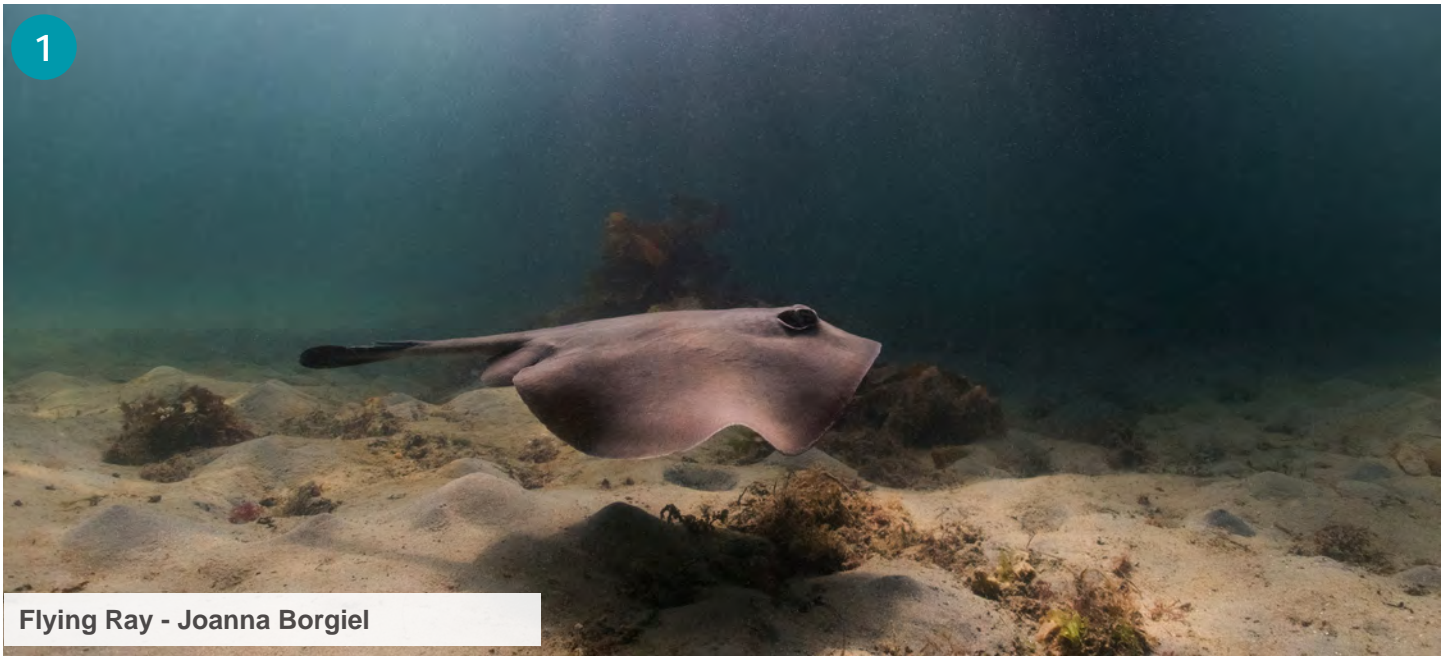
We had at least 80 entries from people generally in the Bayside area letting their creativity run wild! The communities most loved views of nature and country: above and below the waterline, including intertidal or coastal zone. All are displayed on our FB page.

Prizes for the top five were voted by our judges, also placed on Facebook and prizes sent out with a certificate!

We would particularly like to thank [Sea All Dolphin Swims](#) of Queenscliffe for donating two very generous prizes!

Here are the top five winners for your enjoyment.

Equal First!



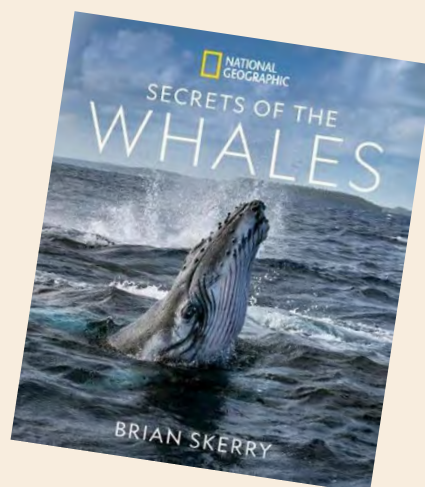
Runners Up



Inspirational Reading

Secrets of the Whales by Brian Skerry

In these pages, we learn that whales share an amazing ability to learn and adapt to opportunities, from specialized feeding strategies to parenting techniques. There is also evidence of deeper, cultural elements of whale identity, from unique dialects to matrilineal societies to organized social customs like singing contests. Featuring the arresting underwater images of Brian Skerry, who has explored and documented oceans for over four decades, this book documents these alluring creatures in all their glory and demonstrate how these majestic creatures can teach us about ourselves and our planet.



From the Editors

Tyson Yunkaporta talks to Victor Steffensen founder of the Firesticks Alliance, guru for burning of Country, Indigenous film maker and musician and author of Fire Country. Talking about complexity of working with Country and what it takes to understand fire and understand Country. A great listen for all.



Listen to The Other Others By Tyson Yunkaporta here:

[The Other Others by Tyson Yunkaporta](#)



Volunteers Wanted

MESAC are looking for volunteers to take up the Secretary, Grant Writing and Website Administrator roles. Please contact: MESACoffice@gmail.com

About MESAC

MESAC conducts a range of marine-oriented events including marine science presentations, guided walks, photography courses, school activities, publications, videos, and marine art events.



A long-term goal of MESAC is to create a world-class venue in Bayside with facilities for marine science, citizen science, school activities, a centre for disabled diving and a home for local marine environmental groups. The centre would benefit a wide range of interest groups and promote understanding and appreciation of the marine environment.

About the editorial team

Dr Toni Roberts is an designer, local snorkeler and marine enthusiast.

Raymond Lewis OAM, is a Bayside marine author, film maker, and environmentalist.

Virginia Mosk MSc is a marine scientist with a passion to educate all about our precious local marine environment.

Claire Bowles MSc is a passionate regenerative practitioner and keen regenerative design advocate.

Dan Coman MDes is a designer with a passion for branded environments and connection to place.

Useful links

Australian Institute of Marine Science aims.gov.au

Parks Victoria parkweb.vic.gov.au

Beaumaris Yacht Club revolutionise.com.au/beaumarisyc

Bayside Earth Sciences Society beaumarisfossils.org

Bayside Climate Change Action Group bccag.org.au

Bayside Environmental Friends Network (via facebook)

Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife bayfonw.org.au

Bunurong Land Council bunuronglc.org

Coast Care Victoria coastsandmarine.vic.gov.au

Disabled Divers Association (via facebook)

Gould League gould.org.au

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies imas.utas.edu.au

Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group jawbone.org.au

Marine Mammal Foundation marinemammal.org.au

Ocean Watch Australia oceanwatch.org.au

Marine Friends Network of Victoria (via facebook)

Port Phillip EcoCentre St Kilda ecocentre.com

Sandringham Foreshore Association sandyforeshore.net.au

Marine Care Ricketts Point marinecare.org.au

The Nature Conservancy Australia natureaustralia.org.au/our-work/oceans

Victorian National Parks Association vnpa.org.au

WA Oceans Institute oceans.uwa.edu.au

WAMSI wamsi.org.au

