



# Snapper Snippets

Between Beaconsfield Parade & The Sand, Kerferd Road Pier, Albert Park.

## Here's to the future

JAMES NIXON

You might forget where you left your car keys, or the name of the person you just met, but you'll never forget your first Rainbow Trout.

**Leo Reed** will even remember returning his to fight another day.

Family Fishing Day at Albert Park Lake will be remembered by all, including the excitement when the Victorian Fisheries Authority arrived to restock the lake, with the help of the kids.

Check out the photo album on our Facebook page for more images, [\(click here\)](#).

The future of our 112 year old club is in the hands of its youngest members.

It's important to ensure we remain relevant so that they'll keep the tradition alive, long into the future.



IMAGE © James Nixon 2021

### Win-Win Situation

'The 200 Club is a great initiative for members, and will clear our bank loan, obtained to complete the clubhouse renovations; setting us up to be completely debt free.'

*Peter Taylor - Treasurer  
- Page 13*



**The Odd Couple**  
- Page 5

## We will survive and thrive

REMY VAN DE WIEL - President

Since 1909 members of our Club have survived wars, depression, and plagues.

We are so fortunate because we're all anchored to nature.

We, in our busy lives, often forget to open our eyes to the beautiful and wondrous things around us. The sea — its constant changes— the moon, and stars.

Our limited time out makes us value the things like the plants, and insects. The bees are coming out, the smell of flowers, pollen, the birds, and even the joy of other people taking time to look.

We're richer than we've ever been, more variety in food and drink.

Please. Take pleasure from the simple things.

This current pandemic and restrictions will pass.

We should use the time to enjoy the basic, but valuable things, including the support we give each other.

We look forward to seeing you all, as soon as we can reopen, and use, our beautiful Club.

Remy.



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If you don't tell us you have changed your email address, who will? Ask your friends if they received this edition of **Snapper Snippets**. If they didn't, tell them to update their email address: [info@apyac.org.au](mailto:info@apyac.org.au)



At a recent General Meeting members offered a standing ovation and thumbs up for Life Member, and retired President, Philip Langdon who is battling health issues at the moment. *Hang in there, Phil, we are thinking of you.*

# The dangers of plastic

REMY VAN DE WIEL

As I turned 75 this year, I thought to myself, *'What am I really doing in terms of this planet?'* I've been involved in different projects to help the community and so on, but I'm worried about what's going to happen to this planet, and our grandchildren.

I became member of Oz Fish some time ago, and I was reading about cleaning creeks and rivers; and I thought, really, what should happen is that the various Councils should have traps, and or nets, to stop things going into the waterways.

We should also try to stop industry sticking rubbish into the waterways to start with, because it all ends up in Port Phillip Bay, and that's not making life very easy for the fish we want to catch!

At Albert Park, through the work of other members, we have created the Shellfish Reefs, and I have learnt how good bivalves are, in terms of cleaning the water, but there is a limit on what they can clean up.

So I immediately thought, right, I've got to get onto Melbourne Water and see what I can do with them. I discovered that we have members who are related to people who are connected to Melbourne Water. Pat Hutchinson's brother, Frank, joined up with Port Philip Eco, and he was also interested in plastics and things.

I've formed a sub-committee: **Nick Hill, Frank Hutchinson, Bob Pearce**, and myself. We had a meeting with **Neil Blake** from Port Philip Eco, who came down with two colleagues, one's a microbiologist, the other one works

in community education. They've been going for many years, doing what I believe is essential, teaching children about the dangers of plastics and pollutants, because that's really where the future lies.

They're organised, they have scouts, and other people, organised to clean up the bay. They give educational lectures to schools. They're a registered charity, and they've been going for some years, and they put out a report which measured the level of micro-plastics.

## MICRO-PLASTICS

Plastic lasts forever, right? It doesn't go away. Micro-plastics are what happens to plastic as it breaks down into tiny, and tinier, and tinier pieces. Eventually it can breakdown so small, the particles can just go through our skin, get into our bloodstream, and kill us. So it's a real danger to us, not to mention the fish and other ecology.

The fish have it in them, we eat the fish, we get the plastic —wonderful!

You've all seen pictures of birds who have got plastic beer can holders around their neck. We've also seen birds who scooped-up plastic —then fed it to their young—and we've seen pictures of their unfortunate dead bodies with the plastic within the skeletons.

We've seen that, and we know that those sorts of plastics are around, but what we didn't realise, or I certainly didn't realise, was the danger of the micro plastics, which can't easily be seen.

Now, there is a lot of movement already to try and invent totally biodegradable plastics. Some plastic manufacturers currently pretend that



their plastics are friendly. They're not. Not until we get these biodegradable plastics.

The plastic bags billed as biodegradable we get from supermarkets, they give us the impression that they are safe, but all they do is break down faster and become micro-plastics which are still very dangerous to us, and not very helpful to life, or the biodiversity of the planet.

Today's plastics are essentially fossil fuels, they're a by-product of the petroleum industry. Researchers are trying to make the material out of corn-starch, rice, and other products, so that they are totally bio friendly.

I recommend that all our members should look at a film on Netflix, called **Seaspiracy** —it's a play on the word conspiracy— which talks about what's happening in the seas, including plastic pollution.

It was made by an impressive 27-year-old Englishman, **Ali Tabrizi**.

They can also have a look at the work of the multi-millionaire, **Dr. Andrew (Twiggy) Forrest**. He recently earned a Doctorate in Microbiology because he's quite interested in this area. One of his Minderoo Trust projects is No Plastic

Waste, and he was also chosen to conduct this year's Boyer Lectures, heard on ABC radio. Worth a listen.

On his site, No Plastic Waste.org, he examines the dangers of plastics, and, to some degree, the level of destruction of plastics. But Twiggy is really interested in, at this stage, in paying people to recycle the plastics.

You can see on his website, the level of plastic waste that we see in Southeast Asia where people have become addicted to single-use plastics, and water bottles in particular.

As an aside, I would encourage our members not to buy bottled water, it's a waste of money in Melbourne, which has perfectly sound drinking water. If you want to carry it around, buy an aluminium bottle, not one of these plastic things because they're not properly collected, and they end up in the waterways. We want to stop that.

### PORT PHILLIPECO

I am very enthusiastic about the work that Port Phillip Eco does. So what we've offered them, on behalf of you—the Members of the club—we offered for them to be able to use our facilities for education purposes, whenever it fitted in with our functions and other arrangements.

The boat shed would be novel classroom in which children could have their lectures, the doors open and the sea just outside. With our audio-visual setup upstairs, they could utilise the space for lectures when it suited them.

You may know that I have a pet project as well, to try and get our hands on the decking between our Clubhouse and the pier.

We can put some containers there. I want to fit out one of the containers so it could convert into a schoolroom when required.

We could have a continuous live feed image of the new shellfish reef, so that children can see what's happening under the water; and also display anti-pollution, and plastics information, because I think children will be the ambassadors for this.

### HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

I am hopeful that the public is getting the message.

In, I think, in two years, we'll have the ten-cent deposit on all drink containers which will encourage people to return their plastic bottles so that they can be recycled. That's a good step forward.

We've got the supermarkets modifying their packaging, it makes good business sense to make their

customers happy. For example, Coles just announced that they are no longer going to use those small plastic toys in their promotions.

We've got industry being encouraged to find alternatives. And then you've got Twiggy Forrest saying, well, we might have to pay for plastic products. I don't know that that's the best way to go, but it might be a good interim step.

So that that's it for plastics at the moment, and I encourage members to be aware of the dangers of single-use plastic, and certainly avoid plastic bottles, and plastic containers, as much as possible.

I understand it's a beautiful product, it weighs nothing, it lasts for a long time, but they say that every piece of plastic ever produced is still on the planet, be it in landfills, or burnt and become carcinogenic smoke, which gets in the atmosphere and eventually comes back into the ecosystem. It doesn't leave the planet. It's all still here.

Unfortunately, it's not something which helps us.



# Footy tipping reaches a climax at last

JAMES NIXON

Bob Snell is back with us after a rapid allergic reaction to a medication led to a lung inflammation, and a three week sojourn in hospital.

The recovery will take quite some time. His walks now take him all the way to the Club and back, only stopping twice. Conveniently, The Vincent and Bleak House just happen to have comfortable furniture, but Dan's locked him out.

Barrie Morrison deserves our thanks for stepping-up and keeping the tipping machine running.

We have reached the end of the weekly tipping, and you are now relying on your projections—for the last five rounds—made at the beginning of the year.

Can you remember that far back? When the Tigers were on top, Eddie and Bux were loved, Clarko was staying forever; before Melbourne won

nine in a row, and Max Gawn sealed their season with *that* kick ... after the siren.

Tips from the last five rounds are in the Chubb safe, waiting to take you to the end of the rainbow and the big money: \$2,000 for first, \$1,000 for second and \$500 for third.

After Round 18, Col Hudson was ahead on 110, Tim Miller on 109, and Chris Smith on 108. Who is going to come from nowhere and take the prize?

The AFL has done an incredible job during Covid, somehow playing all the matches shown on the fixture. Bob has recorded and scored them as if they were played in the round shown on the card, regardless of when the matches were played.

Covid permitting, the Tipping Presentation which includes pies, hot dogs, beer and wine, (that you have already paid for), is on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of September at the club. Bar open from 6 p.m. and the draw starts at 7 p.m.



IMAGE: @jamesnixon2021

# Club Manager's Report

IMAGE: ©jamesnikon2021



I have mentioned it a few times in the early editions of 'Tight Lines' but it would be remiss of me not to mention again that the welcome has been gratefully received. Special thanks to the committee for their support, and Glenn too, who has been a tremendous resource for my introduction.

We've done a few really good things at the club, and I'm particularly proud of the team's resilience during the in and out periods of lockdown. We need to remain strong and look after each other during these tough times. QR codes on entry, dining room restrictions, and hand sanitiser will be around for a while longer so your support in adhering to guidelines is required for the safety of others.

If you haven't been to the club for a while you need to know that our kitchen is really putting out some quality food. Check out the website for our menu which is supported by a couple of seasonal weekly specials. Thursday and Friday nights our candle-lit

main room has received many compliments. Once covid restrictions are eventually lifted we will resume our members draw.

The new look website is terrific! Thanks to Grant Brooks for getting it up and running. Its images are sensational and we are working in the background to have the website as your one stop shop for everything you need to know about the club, including restaurant bookings, new member applications, boat hire, and eventually a spot where you can update all your own member details.

Finally, I have to welcome Amanda Giannakis to the team as our Office Administrator. Our new office hours too are on the website, and you will find Amanda a terrific asset to the club.

Hope to see you at the club, or one of our important monthly meetings soon.

Best Regards,

Rob.

## In The Office

**Manager - Rob Raffa**

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**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/likeapyac/>

**Dining Bookings**

[tinyurl.com/AnglersBOOKINGS](https://tinyurl.com/AnglersBOOKINGS)

**Or call 9690 5530 & press #1.**

Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club Inc.  
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## Your Committee

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IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2021

Port Phillip Eco's Bay-Keeper **Neil Blake** and President **Remy Wan De Wiel** pose for the camera, after Neil gave us an enlightening talk about the health of the Bay.

## It's carnage down there

JAMES NIXON

This time of the year the shoreline of our Bay becomes a shell collector's dream. Nice to look at, but it is evidence of a massacre beneath the waves, during the annual Northern Pacific Seastar migration.



IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2021

Port Phillip Baykeeper, **Neil Blake** explains:

Northern Pacific Seastars (*Asterias amurensis*) are native to the Japan region. First spotted in Port Phillip Bay in 1995, they are believed to have arrived by boat from Tasmania's Derwent Estuary which was infected in 1986.

'Epifaunal' means aquatic animals that live underwater and not burrow into, or beneath the seabed, such as starfish. A study of the epifaunal community on St Kilda pier and breakwater in 1997 and 1998 found thick beds of blue mussels, black-lip abalone, native eleven-armed starfish, and cushion stars. No Northern Pacific Seastars were recorded.

Six years later, data compiled by Earthcare St Kilda over numerous community collections since 2004, reported the Seastars to be abundant in St Kilda harbour, particularly during winter when they gather in sheltered nearshore areas to spawn. Observations in Mornington harbour and other Port Phillip locations indicate they are highly mobile, constantly on the move in search of prey.

A sign that the Seastars have arrived is the thousands of freshly-killed bivalves, mostly in the form of Thin-ribbed Cockles. The still-connected top and bottom shells indicates a recent kill.



IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2021

This year, evidence of Seastars, (in the form of thousands of freshly killed bivalves), has been widely observed on eastern Port Phillip Bay beaches from Port Melbourne to Blairgowrie. Their preference for preying on bivalve molluscs places them in direct competition with the huge schools of Snapper seasonally relying on bivalves for food.

Port Phillip EcoCentre has just received State Government funding to work with Bay user-groups to establish a Rapid Response Community Task Force to coordinate Seastars culls as opportunities arise.

Key concerns for the Task Force are to ensure early detection of nearshore aggregations, accurate identification of species, securing permits and volunteer insurance, and humane and appropriate disposal of the catch.

'*Best Practice Guideline for Removal of Northern Pacific Seastars in Port Phillip Bay (2013)*' was written to assist local communities to take action to protect local native habitats where infestation has already occurred. An update of this guide will be ready soon, and available for free download from the EcoCentre website.

Seen any suspicious Seastars? Contact Neil Blake [0409 138 565](tel:0409138565) or [baykeeper@ecocentre.com](mailto:baykeeper@ecocentre.com)

**Want to know what goes on below the decks?**

Eddy & Bob would love to show you what goes on. #TheBoatHouseIsAWholeNewWorld



**Sandra Rogerson's** image shows the remnants of the storm, including many Northern Seastars and the evidence of their recent feeding frenzy.

He was always on the lookout for guest speakers.

In later years he ran the Melbourne Commercial and Professional Networking Group, whose lunches and speaking events are still held at the Railway Club Hotel Port Melbourne.

He was of the belief that all members should be decision-makers within their business, and wore his yellow 'Meet Me, Like Me, Trust Me' lapel badge with pride, as a reminder that doing business face-to-face pays dividends.

A stickler for well-run meetings, he would outwardly show exasperation when things dissolved, as they did, amid interjections and one-liners. He was in his element, calling for order: "Sorry for interrupting your interjection..." Though secretly, he enjoyed the repartee.

The Networking group continues, and, one month soon, will be held at APYAC in Ian's honour. He was a long term member of our Club and, at one stage was on the Committee.

The celebration of Ian's life was held in the Langdon Room with this Melbourne friends, and beamed overseas to family and friends in the U.K. and around the world.

Members will remember Ian's two dogs, Chihuahuas Jasper and Tuppence. One had died before Ian passed, and the other was kindly adopted by his Dog Minder.

Ian's ex wife, Annia came out from South Africa and cared for Ian in the last weeks, and was returning home when he passed away.



## Ian Dear

JAMES NIXON

Club member, and one time Committee Member, Ian Dear lost his battle with cancer on the second of January.

After arriving from London he worked for some Melbourne legal firms before starting Jardine Baker, a consultancy specialising

in negotiation, dispute resolution, and assisting businesses find solutions to legal and accounting problems.

He was a lifelong swimmer, winning a trophy for the Malvern Marlins in 1991, and representing Australia in the Masters Games in the UK in 1996.

Ian held the position of President of the Australian Swim Coaches and Teachers Association - Victoria, for seven years until 2007, and was elected a Life Member in 2005.

One of the best dressed roosters in Albert Park, Ian was all about bringing people together. He ran the Albert Park Networking Group in the early 1990s which involved monthly lunches at the Albert Park Hotel.

**Your Club. Your Venue.** Take over the place for your next birthday party.

# Table talk

VERONICA MATHESON

Club Member **Gillian Kemp** regularly hosts friends for lunch at the club's Angler's Restaurant, often at a long table by the large glass window that looks out to the waters of Port Phillip.

"It's always a wonderful lunch catching up with old and new friends. Sometimes, there's 20 or more of us at the table, and there's always a great buzz in the room," says Gillian.

"We talk about anything and everything, and call it the 'happy yack' lunch which is a play on the club's APYAC initials!"

Very much a live wire, Gillian is a former model who paraded high-end fashion in Melbourne and London, and was an occasional 'barrel girl' on Graham Kennedy's TV show when his regular, Panda, took a holiday.

Among Gillian's souvenirs is a dinner menu signed by former U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, who visited Melbourne many years ago.

"There were three daily newspapers in Melbourne then, and the day after the dinner my photograph with Ronald Reagan was on the front page of each newspaper. You could say I was a cover girl for a day!"

A long-time Albert Park resident, Gillian was born in Western Victoria and moved into fashion as a seamstress at the elite Georges Store in Collins Street where she created delicate needlework on fine lingerie fabrics and lace for the bridal trousseau of Melbourne's high society.



IMAGE: ©jameshixon2021

"It was a skill I've never lost, so when my daughter Kristin married, I made her wedding dress. It was such an honour for me to work with guipure lace and duchess satin for such a special family occasion."

Kristin and her family now live near Gillian as does her son Michael and his family, while another son Peter has a fashion and retail business in Seminyak (Bali).

"Yes, I've had a really lucky and interesting life," says Gillian who sees positives, even in the low times, including her first visit to APYAC after her husband Phillip's death several years ago.

"We'd been married for 56 years, and Phillip often cycled past the club, and said we must drop in there one day. We never got round to it, but Phillip always loved the sea so after his death, I wanted to hold his wake somewhere overlooking the Bay and the Angling Club was the perfect spot."

"South Melbourne's well-known priest Father Bob Maguire officiated at Phillip's funeral service before 100 friends celebrated Phillip's life in the clubrooms. It was after the wake that I realised what lovely people were running the club, and that's when I decided to get involved."

Gillian is also an active member of Port Phillip Life Activities Club which has community activities ranging from mahjong to bushwalking to theatre/movies, and book groups as well as many other activities, including dine-out lunches which Gillian organises.

An avid traveller, Gillian plans to visit her son Peter and his family in Bali as soon as Australia reopens its international borders.

## Q&A

VERONICA MATHESON

**Rob Raffa** is our new Manager. By way of introduction to the members he agreed to answer eight quick questions.

**How would you describe yourself?**

Very easy going, but a frustrated Collingwood supporter.

**Tell us about your background?**

I grew up in Carnegie area and have three children, and their mother too. 25 years in the liquor industry saw my family relocate to live in both Hobart and Adelaide, and been fortunate to have travelled extensively throughout Asia promoting Australian wines.

**When did you first get involved in APYAC?**

Back in the mid 2000's I was a full member, and trained to use old hire boats by the late Ron Amy. Went to the bar afterwards, and

forgot much of what I had just learned. My membership lapsed soon after, as I spent seven years interstate.

**Do you fish?**

I love to fish which makes working here very hard. Yes I have a marine licence, and a boat someone kindly lets me use. 2021-22 is the year of a big snapper, or more!

**Life outside work?**

I enjoy walking my Labrador, eating and drinking with or without friends, but generally with.

IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2021



### What do you like about the Club?

Position, position, position! It's by far the best office space I've ever had. Love having a chat too.

### What would you like to see more of, and what changes could be made?

It's too early to tell I think. I have a few more wines on the list, and some local independent craft beers as well. We are getting busier despite covid, and the colder weather, but more members and their guests would be nice.

### Any other comments?

It has been a very enjoyable beginning, and I can't count how many members have introduced themselves to me which has been fantastic. There have been so many new members using the club as well.

Covid restrictions keep knocking us down, but we're not going to let it flatten us. This amazing Club has survived two World Wars, the influenza pandemic, the Great Depression and the GFC. This is just a flesh wound! Please do your bit to help all of us get out of this.

IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2021



# The King has left the building (we hope)

JAMES NIXON  
IAN SEKAC

Every fourteen days, when the Moon, Earth and Sun are aligned, the gravitational pull of the Sun and Moon is added, causing the oceans to 'spring forth'. The high tides are higher, and the low tides are lower. That's why they are called 'Spring' tides.

They occur with the New Moon (when the Moon is between the earth and the Sun), and Full Moon, (when the Earth is between the Moon and the Sun).

Seven days later, the gravitational pull has the least effect; the high tides are not very high, and the low tides are not very low. They are called Neap Tides.

The orbit of the Moon is more oval than circular, so if a Spring Tide occurs when the Moon is closest to the Earth (at its perigee), then we get a Perigean Spring Tides, which are about ten percent higher and lower.

Alternatively, there are Apogean Neap Tides, when the Moon is at its furthest, when the oceans experience their least tidal movement.

In Australia and New Zealand we call Spring Tides: King Tides. It makes sense because people confuse 'Spring' with the season, so our description is now being adopted in other countries, including the USA.

Our boathouse is designed to handle the Perigean Spring Tides, which occur six to eight times a year, but when we have a huge storm occurring at the same time it's inevitable to have a pile up of sand, and sometimes flooding.

Ian Sekac and Alex Spyrou tackled the problem, designing and installing a storm barrier.

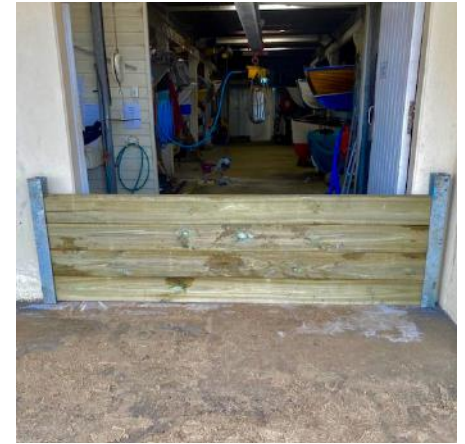
Ian reports:

'After a storm had inundated the boathouse with water and sand, Alex and I were discussing ways we could prevent this occurring.

Warren Davey informed me that there weren't any previous plans to prevent inundation, during the recent renovations, other than sloping the floor to seaward, and adding a centre drain.

Alex came up with the proposal to protect the doors with C-sections either side of the doors, fastened to

the concrete walls with Loxon anchor plugs, to hold sleeper timbers in place. Eventually H-sections were chosen so the timbers could span the doorways without having attachments interfere with the ends of the timbers.



After a recent inundation, water was half-way up the centre aisle, up to 100mm deep. This was puzzling until we found that there were open sections in the concrete walls at floor level, 100x50mm, alongside two doors that may have been assembly aids, which allowed water to flow. These have now been filled with concrete. (As you can see from the photo, the concreter was not Italian.)



The effectiveness of the barriers may be enhanced with a rubber strip on the bottom of each lowest timber, and maybe even make them water tight. Time will tell.

The activation of the barriers will be dependent on closely monitoring weather conditions, a forecast south-westerly during a King tide is possibly the trigger.

We have volunteers close by who have access to the boathouse and are willing to put the barriers in place.



A procedure needs to be designed, and of course there are issues. For instance, Rob needs access for bar deliveries during the week. If all four timbers are in place, and sand has piled-up to two timbers high, then the volunteers need be called-out.

Boat owners, and hirers, need to be trained on barrier removal, shown the location of the padlock keys, taught identification, and storage, of the timbers, and more.

Further work has to be done.

Many thanks must go to Alex for running around procuring all the materials, supplying the tools, and doing most of the hard work.



Ian Sekac accepts thanks for Alex Spyrou's work.

The massive sand build-up was cleared in a covid-safe working bee by Bob Small, Alex Spyrou, John Cali, Michael Kotsanis, Michael Briffa, Dave Vitkin, Shannon & Lucas Nation, Neil Tabrah, Kinsey Reeves and Michael Darling. On behalf of the club, thanks to all involved.



IMAGES: ©jamesnixon2021





marketing and implementation across traditional and digital media.”

“Here’s how it works, we:

- Study your business, industry, competitors and customers,
- Create a fully customised marketing and communication strategy aligned with your business goals,
- Focus on generating and converting leads with our marketing and communications funnels,
- Monitor and analyse all campaigns and refine strategies based on the data, and
- Communicate directly with you every step of the way.”

For an obligation free meeting to discuss, and plan, your marketing and communication future, please call club member Grant Brookes on 0411187676.

## The face behind our new website

JAMES NIXON

APYAC Club Member Grant Brookes had a long history at Eildon owning houseboats over a twenty year period. After selling his houseboat early in 2021, he refocused on his APYAC membership and soon found himself at the club at least once a week. Things happened quickly, he purchased a clinker boat, and instantly became a bay fisherman.

A marketing man, Grant has worked in the radio and television industries for over 25 years. His marketing company, Brookford Trilogy approached the club with an offer to re-design the entire website. The result is the website you see today.

“We can make any site look dynamic, but to have the setting of the Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club as a background allowed the stunning images to tell the story.” says Grant

“Of course, making the site look good is the easy part. Writing the text and capturing the history in story is the hardest. We are very grateful to

other APYAC volunteers for writing the copy for the site. It’s a big site with lots of information and dimensions which need to work on computers, iPads and phones. It’s never really finished, we will continue to evolve the content and visual impact.”

In addition, Brookford Trilogy is a full creative agency that can deliver creative concepts and content for all types of media.

A marketing and communications consultancy dedicated to providing solutions to clients with measurable results, Brookford Trilogy develops all types of website and social digital media, TV and radio broadcast media, events planning, product sponsorships, and brand development.

Grant continues: “We define our client’s product branding, develop high impact marketing strategies, and then commit to their successful implementation.”

“We can help your business with strategy, branding and development of an initial concept, through to



## Where luxury, lifestyle and location meet

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Real Wellbeing

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IMAGE: ©lamesnixon2021



**Emergency direction: Keep your distance from listing submarine ex-HMAS Otama**

23 June 2021

Mariners are advised that the Ex-HMAS OTAMA (Oberon class submarine) approximately 800 metres north of Crib Point refinery jetty in Western Port has listed significantly and has the risk of capsizing or possibly sinking imminently.

An exclusion zone has been established for the waters around the Ex-HMAS OTAMA currently at approximate position 38° 20.477' S, 145° 13.445' E.

The Director Maritime Safety (as Delegate of the Director, Transport Safety) considers that this is an emergency, and that because of this emergency, persons who are not



authorised should not enter or remain in the exclusion zone.

**Emergency direction**

Persons, other than those authorised by Parks Victoria, the Director, Transport Safety (or delegate) or the Victorian Regional Channels Authority, **must not enter or remain on the waters within 200 metres of the Ex-HMAS OTAMA** where she rests, from the time of publication of this notice until further notice.

Mariners are directed not to enter or remain in the waters in the Exclusion Zone. This direction applies to waters in the Exclusion Zone.

Buoys have been added to mark the exclusion zone.



## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. We do not yet know if it will be in person, or by Zoom. The Notice and Agenda will go out early September.

Under our collegiate system three vacancies will occur and nominations will be called for.

Bob Snell and Eddy Bernobich are retiring, and Michelle Matthews will nominate for re-election.

### Monthly meeting

**The Club's monthly General Meeting is held on the first Wednesday each month.**

**During Lockdowns we conduct the meetings via Zoom.**

**Normally, when we are at the Club the bar is open from 6.30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7.30 p.m.**

**The President and the Committee Members quickly report on the status of the club, then a guest speaker gives a talk.**

**The great thing is that, as well as partaking in the free party pies and sausage rolls at the end of the night; you always leave smarter than when you arrived!**

**All members are welcome.**

### Annual Memberships

The Annual Membership Subscription notices were sent out on in early July, by email.

If you have not received yours, the email address we have for you must be incorrect. Please update it via: [memberships@apyac.org.au](mailto:memberships@apyac.org.au)



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**133474**

Report suspicious or illegal fishing activity.

Help protect our fish stocks for the future.

# The 200 Club

JAMES NIXON

Our Club Treasurer, **Peter Taylor**, in his day job, is General Manager and Director of Adams Pest Control.

His mission is to tackle the pest of our Club's debt, incurred when we did the recent renovations.

The renovations of the one hundred and ten year old boathouse were necessary, particularly to upgrade the foundations, kitchen, office space, and install the mandatory, but not sexy, fire control system.

Sitting at \$502,000, Peter has renegotiated the loan at a lower interest rate, and turned it into an Equity Access Loan, allowing the fluctuations of our bank balance, when the subscriptions come in, to save us money.

His dream of eliminating the debt completely was strengthened when a member, Michael Minshall came up with the idea of The 200 Club. He was on a fishing trip at Flinders Island with Peter at the time — more talk than fish.

If we could get ten percent of our members to give us \$2,500 each, we'd clear the debt in one go, saving us nearly half a million dollars interest over the next decade, which can be better used giving services to members by employing more staff.

In return, the ten percenters, called The 200 Club, would get a ten-year Membership.

Committee member, and Director of Scotchman's Hill Winery, Michael Blanche, offered to add the names of The 200 Club members to the winery's exclusive Director's List, enabling them to purchase Scotchman's Hill products at a discount of at least 30%.

Peter Taylor countered with a 20% discount of their first treatment of a private residence, by Adam's Pest Control.

Club Secretary Peter Nevile confirmed that Nevile & Co Pty Ltd are prepared to provide a 20% discount of a Wills and enduring Powers of Attorney package for the 200 Club, as well as an initial free 30 minute consultation on any legal issues in areas in which they practice.

Plans are afoot to add further discounts from Club sponsors in future.

The ten year membership is now on offer. Limited to the first 200 applications, *The 200 Club* members receive:

- A unique member number (between 1 and 200).
- An exclusive commemorative lapel badge.
- Membership fee savings of over \$600 based on the current



IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2021

rate projections over the decade.

- Automatic membership of the Scotchman's Hill Winery's Director's List, which enables you to buy their wines at least 30% below retail, and more.
- 20% discount at Adams Pest Control and Nevile & Co.
- Further benefits, and recognition, as they become available.

Most of all, they receive the grateful thanks of all members now, and into the future; as their actions build a debt-free foundation for the Club.

The cost is \$2,500 (\$250 times 10) now, plus the annual bar-tab levy each year.

Waitlist Members may also apply to take advantage of this offer.

Move fast, to be in *The 200 Club* contact the office.

If you can't see the bridge of that ship ... they can't see you!  
Keep outta the channels. You don't need the drama.

**STEER CLEAR**



## Best Bay Spawning in 24 Years for Sand Flathead

Recent surveys of Port Phillip by fisheries scientists have recorded the best sand flathead spawning in 24 years.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said sand flathead are a popular 'bread

and butter' species because they are easy to catch and delicious on the dinner table.

"For many Victorians, sand flathead were the first fish they ever caught so this big spawning event in the bay is wonderful news that will resonate with lots of people, young and old," Mr Dowling said.

"The VFA monitors annual spawning success for several fish species because it has a major influence on the performance of our marine fisheries.

"Surveys in Port Phillip predominantly target snapper and King George whiting however they also provide an indicator for sand flathead.

"While several flathead species inhabit Victorian waters, including

dusky, rock, blue-spotted and tiger, sand flathead make up most of the recreational catch, particularly in Port Phillip.

“Sand flathead spawning success was high in Port Phillip during the 1990s resulting in a booming fishery up until the mid-2000s. However, low spawning success from 1997-98 onwards saw a decrease in sand flathead



abundance.

“On the back of a moderately successful spawning event in 2013, sand flathead stocks have begun to rebuild, and this should continue for the foreseeable future thanks to the strong 2021 year-class.”

“Recent survey work had also measured snapper spawning success, which was found to be low this year. Snapper spawning is naturally variable, so some years are good, some years are great, and other years not so good.

“The news does not concern fisheries managers because the western snapper stock, which includes Port Phillip snapper, had a record spawning event in 2018 and this cohort is just beginning to reach the legal minimum length of 28cm, which will bolster the fishery for years to come.”

Mr Dowling said the State Government had removed ninety per cent of commercial netting effort in Port Phillip already and the entire bay would become completely net free by next April.

“That means more fish than ever for recreational fishers to enjoy in Victoria’s biggest fishery.



## Victoria reels in record fish stocking milestone

The Victorian Government has reached its target of stocking eight million fish in Victoria’s iconic rivers and lakes over the past 12 months, bolstering fishing opportunities for the future. The record stocking was an exciting achievement and included landmark stocking events such as the Victorian-first release of dusky flathead

fingerlings and increased efforts to boost Macquarie perch populations.

The fish stockings were funded by recreational fishing licence fees and the Labor Government’s \$35 million investment to get more people fishing, more often.

Investment in fish stocking is not only providing a boost to the local economies by increasing tourism in the area, it is also creating more jobs every day. With great fishing destinations right across the state, these benefits are felt far and wide.

Of the eight million fish stocked, around 1.5 million were salmonids such as rainbow and brown trout and chinook salmon. The remaining 6.5 million were native species such as Murray cod, golden, silver and estuary perch.

More than 2.9 million golden perch, 2.8 million Murray cod and 368,000 Australian bass were stocked, as well as 284,000 estuary perch and 54,000 Macquarie perch.

A large amount of work has been done by Victorian Fisheries Authority staff, including at Snobs Creek hatchery, to improve fish habitat, breed, rear, and deliver these fish right across the state.

Several waters received record Murray cod stockings this year, including 609,000 into Rocklands Reservoir in western Victoria, 125,000 into Laanecoorie Reservoir near Maryborough, and 15,000 into Lake Boga in the state’s north.

Other record stockings included Arboretum Dam at Euroa scoring a record 8,000 silver perch, Upper Coliban Reservoir in central Victoria receiving 62,500 golden perch and Gippsland’s Lake Glenmaggie getting 63,250 Aussie bass.

The Government continues to safeguard fisheries for future generations to enjoy and is aiming to break the record again by stocking 10 million fish in the next 12 months.

The future for fishing in Victoria is bright, with a new \$7 million native fish hatchery at Arcadia set to be complete by the end of the year, delivering capacity to produce 1.6 million native fish annually.

## More reefs for healthier fisheries in Corio Bay

Two major fishing reef projects near Geelong are complete, creating more homes for fish and enabling recreational fishers to reap the rewards from land and sea.

Minister for Fishing and Boating Melissa Horne said the reefs will get more people fishing as of part the Victorian Government’s \$35 million investment, including \$2.5 million for extra reefs in Port Phillip. The first project has delivered three reefs at Outer Harbour, St Helens and Kirk Point —each named with help from the community.

The trio of reefs were constructed with 2,000 tonnes of basalt as a base, sourced from the nearby Cherry Creek juvenile justice facility, with help from VRFish, and topped with 100 tonnes of limestone. This combination provided the perfect substrate upon which to seed 400,000 native flat oysters and ten tonnes of blue mussels.



Oysters were sourced from the Victorian Shellfish Hatchery at Queenscliff and the mussels came from a local grower, Advanced Mussel Supply. Oysters and mussels will improve water quality, create diversity in sea floor fish habitats and boost productivity for fish and invertebrates.

The second project was led by The Nature Conservancy with an investment from Target One Million, and restored shellfish reefs at 9ft Bank in the Geelong Arm by deploying 100 cubic metres of recycled shells from restaurants and the seafood industry.

It also included new reefs at Wilson Spit in Geelong Arm, Margaret's Reef near St Kilda and in Dromana Bay. These 3.5 hectares of new reefs were seeded with approximately three million oysters and six tonnes of blue mussels, which will attract a diversity of fish and aquatic life.

The Outer Harbour reef will be called Moolap, that being the Indigenous name of Point Henry. Moolap recognises the cultural significance of the sea country to Wadawurrung people and means a place of men fishing with spears.

The reef at St Helens is Merv's Reef, named after the late Merv McGuire, former head of Future Fish and VRFish. It is ideal for land-based fishers because it's 62 metres from the break wall.

At Kirk Point the reef will be called Wilson Reef, honouring Geelong fishing writer and identity Geoff Wilson.

The project was delivered by the Victorian Fishing Authority. Reef locations were selected following consultation with key recreational fishing stakeholders, and Geelong fishing club members. The new reefs are accessible, known for good fishing, and away from areas important for other marine uses, such as shipping channels and spoil grounds.

## Program Delivers Upgrades For Boating Across State

A host of projects to improve boating across Victoria will receive funding in the 2020-21 round of grants as part of the Boating Safety and Facilities Program (BSFP).

The grants program is part of the Andrews Labor Government's unprecedented \$47.2 million investment to improve recreational boating in Victoria, which includes Better Boating Victoria (BBV) making it free to park and launch at Victorian boat ramps, and establishing the Better Boating Fund.

This year's round of BSFP grants has allocated almost \$1.9 million to 33 projects across the categories of boating infrastructure, search and rescue and aids to navigation.

BBV launched the program in February with grant applications open for a period of six weeks to committees of management, government agencies, local water authorities, waterway managers and dedicated search and rescue groups.

Funded infrastructure projects include a project focussing on the renewal of jetties and pontoons at Lake Purrumbete in Victoria's south-west, with \$312,000 awarded to the Lake Purrumbete Foreshore Committee of Management. Other boating facilities projects to collect funding include a floating pontoon and jetty upgrade at Newhaven boat ramp on the Bass Coast and an improved Yarrowonga Common boat ramp.

Lake Boga, Lake Eppalock, Corner Inlet, Lake Burrumbeet and the Hopkins River are some of the waters which will get new aids to navigation, while coast guards at Western Port, Safety Beach and Werribee are among the groups to receive funding for search and rescue related improvements.

Since being established in 2000, the BSFP has provided \$67 million to 1400 grant projects, funded by a portion of vessel registration fees paid by boaters.

To find out more about the funded projects, click <https://tinyurl.com/3k39uha3>

## More Tiger Trout to Add to Exciting Purrumbete Fishery



Lake Purrumbete's reputation as a trophy trout fishery is about to get even better with the addition of 7,000 tiger trout. The stocking of tiger trout into Lake Purrumbete over the last three years has been incredibly successful with freshwater fishers catching trout up to 2.3kg in size. Fishers have revelled in their sport-fishing qualities, and as a table fish for the family too.

The stocking trial at Lake Purrumbete began with a request from VRFish that has seen more than 1,200 tiger trout and 7,400 cheetah trout released to date.

Lake Purrumbete is stocked annually with Chinook salmon, brown, rainbow and brook trout, a species mix

supported by the Lake Purrumbete Angling Club. The lake is also home to a self-sustaining population of redfin which often school in great numbers and can be caught by fishers of all skill levels.

There are plans this year to stock 3,000 tiger trout into nearby Lake Bullen Merri, the iconic sister crater lake to Purrumbete, which contains a wonderful range of stocked species including rainbow and brown trout, Chinook salmon and Australian bass.



Lake Purrumbete will also benefit from the Government's recently announced Boating Safety and Facilities Program grants program that awarded \$312,000 to the Lake Purrumbete Foreshore Committee of Management to renew the jetties and pontoons at the popular boating destination.

The grants program is part of the Government's \$47.2 million investment to improve recreational boating in Victoria, which includes Better Boating Victoria making it free to park and launch at Victorian boat ramps, and establishing the Better Boating Fund.

## Translocating River Blackfish in the Tarwin River Catchment



River Blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*) have declined throughout south-east Australia, possibly because of reduced habitat condition. In west Gippsland, while historically found throughout the freshwater reaches of the Tarwin River catchment, they are now found only in the upper reaches.

The decline of this popular recreational fishing species has occurred despite the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), local landholders and community members, undertaking extensive waterway rehabilitation activities in these areas over the last 25 years. It is thought that certain characteristics of River Blackfish, such as its non-migratory nature, localised breeding strategy, and small home range may be limiting natural recolonisation of

these rehabilitated areas. Thus, further approaches to increase numbers and range of this species requires investigation.

Since 2015, the WGCMA, ARI, and local recreational fishers have worked together to trial the translocation of River Blackfish into rehabilitated habitat sites in the Tarwin River, and investigate whether they establish new home ranges. Twenty-seven adult fish were collected from source locations in the Tarwin River and moved to rehabilitated and non-rehabilitated reaches downstream within the species' historical distribution. Fish were implanted with acoustic tags, and a series of acoustic receivers were placed along the river to monitor their movements over the short term. Twenty-two of the translocated River Blackfish survived and remained within the translocated areas for the majority of their tag's battery life. The other five fish were not recorded again.

Electrofishing surveys in autumn 2017 and 2018 did not collect any translocated fish and it is believed the fish may have left the site. A severe drought in the study area about six months following the translocation resulted in the creek ceasing to flow, leading to poor water quality (decreased dissolved oxygen levels and increased water temperature). This emphasised the need to carefully select potential translocation sites that have good instream and riparian habitat which are not impacted by potential water quality issues.

This pilot project has provided valuable insights regarding translocations of River Blackfish to enable successful recolonisation of former habitats. Monitoring of the River Blackfish in the Tarwin River is continuing, including their breeding and recruitment success. Recommendations have also been developed regarding further translocations and other approaches that can contribute to the conservation of this species. This project is a collaboration with WGCMA, funded by the Victorian Government using Recreational Fishing Licence Fees.



## Satellite Tracking of Eels Reveals their Mysterious Migration

Since 2018, the Arthur Rylah Institute, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, has been using satellite tags to identify the migration routes and spawning areas of eels. It's the first time this innovative technology has been used in Australia on these eels. The tags allow us to track the animals over very large distances, and they record a wealth of environmental data such as temperature, depth and light.

There are two species of eels found in Victoria; the Long-finned Eel (*Anguilla reinhardtii*) and Short-finned Eel (*A. australis*), and both have amazing lifecycles. Adult eels live for many years in freshwater habitats like



rivers and wetlands until they move downstream, often during high river flows, out into the sea.

They begin an oceanic spawning migration, travelling several thousand kilometres to warm tropical waters. After spawning, the adults die and the newly hatched larvae begin a journey toward the coast, drifting on ocean currents and developing into glass eels before eventually entering rivers. The young eels (called elvers), migrate further upstream into freshwater to eventually become adults. These adults will then one day head to the sea to spawn, and so the cycle begins again!



David Dawson setting a fyke net to catch eels

Victorian eels support commercial and recreational fisheries and have significant cultural values to Traditional Owners. For example, eel traps of the Lake Condah region of western Victoria have been used for thousands of years to capture Short-finned Eels. Globally, anguillid (or freshwater) eels have declined



Wayne Koster with a long finned eel

dramatically over the last 50 years for many reasons including habitat loss and barriers to migration.

We were able to track some adult eels for up to five months, migrating up to about 3,000 km from where they were released. Tagged eels were tracked to an area in the Coral Sea near New Caledonia, a presumed spawning area in the south Pacific Ocean. During their migration, the eels moved up and down the water column; mainly between depths of 700–900 m during the day and 100–300 m during the night, likely related to avoiding predators and for thermoregulation. Predators such as whales and sharks ended many migrations, with some unfortunate eels eaten before they had left the Australian continental shelf.

This recent work has filled important knowledge gaps for our Victorian eel species. Understanding fundamental aspects of their life history such as their migration patterns, can help inform efforts to protect these amazing creatures.

It's a collaboration between DELWP, the Gunditjmarra Traditional Owners, the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and Melbourne Water. Professor Kim Aarestrup from Denmark is also involved in this work.

The journey of our native eels has garnered much recent media interest: check out the [ARI website](#) for links to a selection of articles, videos and interviews, including [ABC Landline](#) and [ABC News](#).



Minister for Fishing and Boating, Melissa Horne, helping to restock Albert Park Lake with trout.

## BOAT FOR SALE

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Two recent announcements by VRFish are noteworthy. APYAC honorary member **Ben Scullin** has been appointed to the role of VRFish Executive Officer, and the Board welcomed new member **Rita Caulfield**.



Rita Caulfield is a big Cod on surface lure specialist

Bob Pearce notes, “Ben Scullin is no stranger to APYAC and is one of our honorary members. Ben is a great fisho in his own right and is an expert with lures. He has pulled many big Jewfish out of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers, not to mention other Victorian rivers.”

“He has been very generous with his time with us over the years and has been a guest speaker on several occasions. One of his memorable presentations was about his fishing experiences in China while working there. I am sure Ben will be seen around the club quite a bit, and possibly as guest speaker in future.”



Ben Scullin with a Gippsland Spiny Crayfish



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**VRFish** recently wrapped up its annual Advocacy Priorities survey with Victoria's recreational fishers showing that habitat is once again the highest priority. Of particular note is that amongst marine and estuarine fishers the number one advocacy priority was "Expand restoration of living shellfish reefs in our bays, inlets and estuaries".

VRFish is thrilled to announce Rita Caulfield as the newest member appointed to the VRFish Board. Rita currently works in the fishing tackle industry and is a familiar face on the tackle / boat / camping industry show circuit.

Her passion for recreational fishing, small business acumen, and massive Cod smashing ability will serve recreational fishers well. Rita was appointed to replace retired Board member, and environmental warrior, Kris Leckie.

Within the rec fishing community, she's known as 'Metre Rita' after reeling in two metre-long barramundi on consecutive casts. As one of the top ranked Murray cod lure fishers in Australia, Rita has more 'metre cod' under her belt than the VRFish Board and Executive combined. We wish Rita good luck and welcome aboard!

## Mulloway Tagging

The Nature Glenelg Trust's Mulloway tagging project is investigating broad-scale movement patterns of mulloway across Victoria and interstate.

The citizen science project aims to tag 2000 mulloway through offering anglers an opportunity to practice catch and release fishing while helping to increase knowledge on mulloway.

Gaining an understanding of the connectivity and movement patterns of mulloway between estuarine nursery habitats, and marine waters, will help to paint a picture of their population structures and the species life history.

The latest recapture in June, caught by Nic Tribonias, was the first tagged mulloway recorded from the Maribyrnong River. The fish was tagged over a year ago five kilometres away in the Yarra River around Docklands by Steve Kovacevic.

In 395 days, the fish had grown 16.5 cm (from 66 cm to 82.5 cm). After a quick photo, it was released.



In May, the project saw a further 16 mulloway tagged at a number of locations across Victoria and South Australia, including 11 from the Glenelg, two from the Patterson, one from the Yarra, one from the Hopkins and one from Beachport SA.

During May, recaptures were recorded by recfishers for the Yarra River and Patterson River. In the Yarra, a 66cm mulloway was recaptured by Nic Tribonias only a few weeks after it was initially tagged by Steve

Kovacevic. The fish was caught four kilometres downstream from where it had been tagged.

A Patterson River mulloway was tagged in 2019 by Shaun Mulcahy and recaptured in March 2020. In May, this fish was caught for a third time, by Julian Straub, and had grown from 65cm to 82cm over the two years.

Keep an eye out for tagged mulloway along the Victorian coast and estuaries as the mulloway tagging project continues to record new recaptures!

If you catch a tagged fish, please report the recapture to the contact on the tag to contribute valuable data to the project.

If you're interested in finding out more about the mulloway tagging project, contact Lauren Brown from Nature Glenelg Trust via [the Mulloway Tagging Victoria Facebook group](#).

The Mulloway Tagging Project is funded by recreational fishing licence fees.

## Whale Attack!



A man was critically injured when a whale breached on top of his boat on the NSW South Coast recently. He was in a coma in hospital for eight days, but has made a good recovery.

He was fishing alongside a 39-year-old skipper in Narooma when a whale surfaced from beneath the boat and crashed down onto the small vessel.

The pair issued a mayday signal before managing to navigate back to the boat ramp. Paramedics met the vessel and treated both men for serious injuries before taking them to hospital for emergency treatment.

The younger man was later airlifted from Moruya Hospital to Canberra Hospital, where he was placed in an induced coma with neck and head injuries, while the older man was treated at Moruya Hospital for facial lacerations and a concussion. Maritime NSW urged skippers to stay alert while on the water during this season's whale migration along the NSW coast.

Marine Area Commander, Superintendent Joe McNulty, said "The incident demonstrates the dangers these mammals can pose to those on the water. The number of whales migrating north has dramatically increased, and maritime authorities have received reports they're travelling closer to the coast than in previous years."

The fishing boat was heavily damaged, but the two men were still able to get it close enough to shore to mayday for help. NSW Marine Police advise: "Given the close proximity to the shoreline, there is potential for some spectacular whale watching, but Skippers should maintain a safe distance as outlined in the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017."

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**M Williams**

"Michael and the team at Cayzer did a wonderful job from preparing the campaign to get my mum's house on the market. Auction day! Michael, thank you so, so much, you did a wonderful job and got us a great result ... you kept us updated throughout the campaign, you were honest with us, and very respectful."

**MF Jenkin**

"Big shout out to Tim Ward and the commercial property management team! Tim has been nothing but calm, responsive and professional in all out dealings since taking on the management of our properties. The last few years have thrown down some challenges and your expert knowledge, assistance and communication had been very much appreciated. Thank you Tim, Mathew and James!"

**L Gorey**

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**News from OzFish Unlimited**  
By Ben Cleveland

I hope members are still getting out to enjoy some winter fishing and finding some good fish. Whilst COVID restrictions impacted volunteer efforts nationally, there have still been some great achievements by OzFishers across Australia in between lockdowns, and some exciting developments in the world of fish habitat.

**Australian Government's Fish habitat Restoration Program.**

As mentioned in the last Snapper Snippets, in partnership with local Catchment Management Authorities across the state, OzFish sought funding through a federally funded national Fish Habitat Restoration Grant Program, designed to fund projects that engage recreational fishers in on-ground works and demonstrate the rec fisher community's ability to care for their waterways.

The Club provided letters of Support for these applications, and through our partnerships, we were successful in six projects across Victoria to be completed over the next three years, with potential collaboration in the additional three projects also awarded in the state.

Of specific interest to club members are the Community Reefs Project in Port Phillip constructing shellfish reefs and the Reel Big Fish Program in Western Port, focusing on mangrove restoration.

Building on the fantastic large-scale shellfish restoration efforts already underway in Port Phillip by The Nature Conservancy—that I'm sure all club members are well aware of though APYAC's incredible support—the community reefs project will focus on a smaller-scale, community-driven approach, with fishers rolling up their sleeves and helping to deploy reef substrate, monitor restoration progress and highlight rec fisher's capabilities.

Working together with the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authorities, we're hoping that this smaller approach and the direct community participation will help increase the community's awareness of the importance of shellfish reef habitats and support the great work going on nationally to bring them back from the brink.

The project is in the permitting stage, with on ground works hopefully starting this summer. I look forward to APYAC members getting involved! For more information, head to the website, [www.ozfish.org.au](http://www.ozfish.org.au)

**Electrofishing in the Curdies**

We recently had an electrofishing demonstration event on the Curdies river, in Curdievale in Victoria's South West. Over 70 people attended the event. The electrofishing survey will help to provide baseline data for the 'Curdies River Fish Habitat Restoration Project' which plans to put over 30 wooden structures, referred to as "Fish Hotels" in the river, providing shelter and food for local fish species.

Electrofishing surveys help us to get a better understanding of the local river's 'fishy' residents,

and provides baseline data for monitoring restoration efforts.

It involves an electrical current being delivered through the water, which temporarily stuns the fish, enabling them to be collected and measured before being safely returned to the water.

The electrofishing survey monitored ten kilometres of the river north and south of Curdievale to identify the species present. This data will be compared with a second survey to be completed in a few years' time to measure the benefits of the fish habitat works we're undertaking in partnership with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. More information can be found [here](#).

**Decade of Ecosystem Restoration**

The United Nations recently announced that 2021-2030 will be the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and acknowledges that community driven restoration projects undertaken by locals on the ground, including rec fishers, is key to turning back the clock on our planet's declining health.

The primary aim of the decade, which was officially launched on World Environment Day, is to make conservation and restoration a priority. The aim is to create change and focus for the next ten years to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on a global scale.

From forests and farmlands to freshwater, oceans and coasts, the vitality and diversity of Earth's ecosystems are the basis of human prosperity and well-being.

The U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is an opportunity to help turn the tide over the next ten years, giving people and nature a sustainable future. Depending on the type of ecosystem, for every dollar spent on restoration, you can expect on average between three and seventy-five dollars of economic benefits returned from its ecosystem goods and services.



OzFish Unlimited founder and CEO **Craig Copeland** is humbled by the amount of restoration work Australian recreational fishers have carried out over the past five years.



“OzFish Unlimited is proud to be one of the first Australian organisations recognised by the U.N. for our work on habitat restoration as part of the U.N. Decade of Ecosystem Restoration,” said Mr Copeland.

“We were approached by the U.N. after they came across some of our unique community driven seagrass restoration work, our Seeds for Snapper project.

“I don’t feel Australia is truly leading the world in terms of how advanced we are, particularly with some ecosystems compared to other countries, but we are investing time and money, and that’s a good sign.”

“To meet the U.N. sustainable development goals, it is imperative that our ecosystem degradation must be reduced, and habitat restoration undertaken on a massive scale,” Mr Copeland said.

Underpinning the ten-year commitment are three main goals:

- Enhancing commitments and actions to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems,
- Increasing understanding of the multiple benefits of successful ecosystem restoration; and
- Applying this knowledge in education systems, and within all public and private sector decision-making.

With over 40 chapters of passionate fishers nationally, and more than 60 restoration projects underway —covering a wide range of different aquatic habitats including salt-marsh and seagrass meadows, shellfish reefs, in-stream habitat in freshwater rivers, riparian zones and wetlands— OzFish is perfectly placed to contribute to ecosystem restoration on a wide range of key habitats across Australia.

Here in Victoria, rec fishers are doing their bit, and APYAC can be proud of their achievements for shellfish habitat restoration to date.

But we can’t stop there! APYAC has an OzFish chapter of its own, and we need you!

OzFish APYAC is an excellent opportunity for APYAC to continue to lead by example, showing the community the positive impacts fishers can have on their local waters. Additional to the great fundraising work already undertaken for the shellfish reef project, with the upcoming projects, there are new opportunities for APYAC club members to get involved.

The Club currently has a Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) unit available for use downstairs, including logbook and equipment if members are keen to get a fish-eye view of their favourite fishing spots.

If you would like to know more about OzFish Unlimited, head to [www.ozfish.org.au](http://www.ozfish.org.au) or come and say G’day at a club meeting.

Ben Cleveland  
[benclleveland@ozfish.org.au](mailto:benclleveland@ozfish.org.au)

# The Nature Conservancy

## Shellfish Reefs Report



## Other Shellfish Reef News

The project was a Finalist in the 2021 Society of Ecological Restoration Awards for Ecological Restoration Excellence. Thank you to the team and partners for your incredible work.

Professor Mick Keough from the University of Melbourne undertook

an expert independent science review of the project outcomes between 2017 and 2020 including our monitoring approach. The overall conclusion was that the project 'to date is scientifically rigorous and has progressed steadily'.

## Reef Builder

In January, The Nature Conservancy kicked off the Australia-wide [Reef Builder](#) initiative for 2021, which aims to bring shellfish reef ecosystems back from the brink of extinction, for the benefit of both people and nature.

This is an exciting partnership between the Australian Government and The Nature Conservancy. For Port Phillip Bay, this means the restoration of a further five hectares of shellfish reefs at the existing sites: Wilson Spit near Geelong, Margaret's Reef in Hobsons Bay, and Dromana.

By the end of 2021, there will be a total of ten hectares of shellfish reefs restored since 2017. They will provide cleaner water, more fish, plus habitat for many other species.

To support the roll out of Reef Builder in Victoria, we're recruited two new Project Coordinators, [Andrew 'Volley' Dunlop](#) and [Andrew 'Fish' Fischer](#). Both Andrews bring solid talents and diverse skills to our growing Oceans Program team. Please give them a warm welcome.

## Shuck Don't Chuck

Covid restrictions have been tough on many of our 'Shuck Don't Chuck' hospitality partners. These are restaurants who reclaim, and donate, used seafood shells for us to use on the reefs. Despite this,



Red swimmer crab at the first reef restored at Wilson Spit. ©Jarrod Boord

Platinum club sponsor



Trilogy Brookford built and manage our brilliant new website.

Trilogy Brookford is a Marketing and Communications Consultancy dedicated to providing media solutions to clients with measurable results. Trilogy Brookford specialise in Website and Social Media design and management. Trilogy Brookford can build your website and manage all of your digital social media.

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We can help your business with strategy, branding and development of an initial concept, through to marketing and implementation across traditional and digital media."

### Trilogy Contact Details:

**Mal Peter:**

**Phone:** 0459 999 470

**Email:** [mal@trilogywebsolutions.com](mailto:mal@trilogywebsolutions.com)

### Brookford Contact Details:

**Grant Brookes:**

**Phone:** 0411 187 676

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shell recycling has continued. There are around 350 cubic metres of shells (96 tonnes) at our St Leonards curing site ready to be turned into new reefs in October.

We're currently in a rebuilding phase with 'Shuck Don't Chuck' by reconnecting with some older partners, and introducing new ones. We're also exploring the option of expanding to the Mornington Peninsula, Bellarine and the Surf Coast regions with local partners.

We are also excited to be featured in the Channel 10 'Advancing Australia' documentary series. Each episode focuses on a national issue and how innovators are using their skills to solve them, create change, and build a better place. Shuck Don't Chuck was part of the episode about waste – [check it out here via 10Play](#).

## More Recycling News

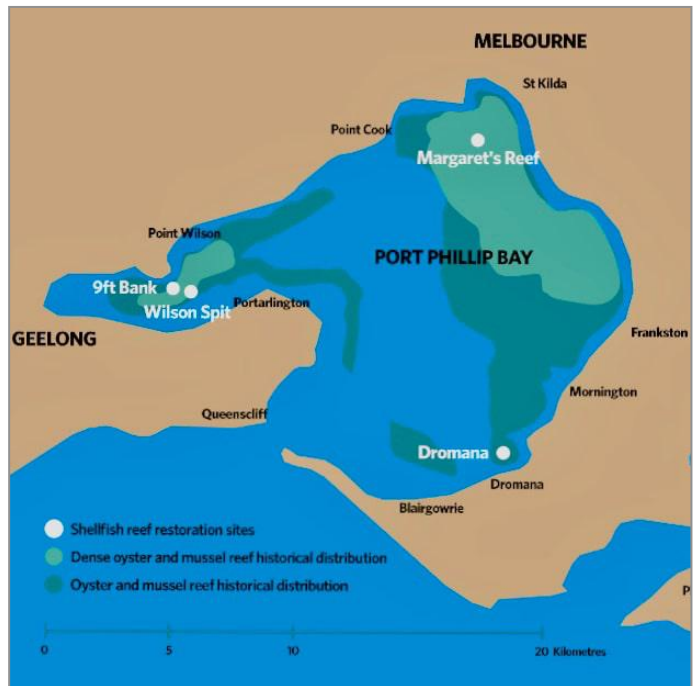
Our partners Stokehouse St Kilda featured 'Shuck Don't Chuck' as part of their World Oceans Day promotion on social media, which is hugely appreciated.

'Shuck Don't Chuck' is expanding, with a project now up and running in [Noosa](#) (click the link to read all about it).

The recycled shells have been used for a variety of other exciting purposes including:

- Highly celebrated artist Bern Emmerichs, in an art piece that is now shown at the National Art Gallery in Canberra,
- Birdlife Australia are using them for innovative [floating roost trials](#).
- Barking Spider Visual Theatre Inc are using them in 'Oyster' installations

It's great to see our work being recognised in so many ways. Thank you to all our partners for your incredible support, this wouldn't be possible without you.



## Hey **smartypants!** Going for a swim?

Try putting your **life jacket** on when you are in the water. It's near impossible. That's why we put 'em on **before** we go out to the sea in boats.







## Volunteer-led recovery

The call for volunteers led to a massive response. This has led to the formation of a number of Sub-Committees to provide expertise, guidance and grunt-work to the main Committee who is tasked with navigating the stormy Covid seas, and modernisation of our club. Sharing the load is important if we are to maintain momentum

and we would like to publicly thank the following for their time and dedication.

Our task is by no-means over, and we'd love to add more people to our list of willing experts. We can offer nothing but camaraderie, and the satisfaction that comes from contributing to the success of the best little fishing club on the planet.

### Administration

#### **Peter Nevile**

Belinda Bicknell  
Michelle Matthews

### Angling

#### **Bob Pearce**

Chantal Meehan  
Anthony Osborne  
Tony Panayotou  
Alex Spyrou  
Dave Vitkin

### Boathouse

#### **Eddy Bernobich**

John Cali  
Peter Hickey  
Anthony Osborne  
Ian Sekac  
Bob Small  
Alex Spyrou

### Community Relations

#### **Remy Van De Wiel**

Nick Hill  
Frank Hutchinson  
Bob Pearce  
Robert Richter  
Brian Wright

### Finance & Operations

#### **Peter Taylor**

Jesse Gleeson  
Barry Hayes  
Peter Holdsworth  
John Miline  
Pam Montgomery  
Kerry Raymond  
Daniel Rudd  
Peter Stackpole

### Food & Beverage, Functions

#### **Michael Blanche Lee Spyrou**

Stavros Abougelis  
Gil Brewster  
Ellie Cormick  
Bev Francis  
Michelle Matthews  
Katy Nottingham  
Maryann Phoenix  
Di Robertson  
Sandra Rogerson  
Victoria Wilson

### Marketing Communications Media & Sponsorship

#### **Michelle Matthews**

Tiburce Blanchy  
Grant Brookes  
Chris Derrick  
Peter Holdsworth  
James Nixon  
Veronica Matheson  
Barry Shepherd  
Kate Unsworth

# Dimattina

COFFEE SPECIALISTS SINCE '54

The Dimattina family have a long, rich history in the coffee industry. Beginning in the 1950's when our fathers started roasting coffee, the Dimattina name is now front and centre with the latest phase of the coffee dynasty, Dimattina Coffee.

Established in 1998, it was destined we would follow in our father's footsteps and go into the addictive business of coffee for ourselves. We roast coffee in Melbourne, Perth & Bali and wholesale Australia wide. Retail coffee for your home is available from our South Melbourne flagship store, 173 Clarendon Street, or via our website.

**Phone:** 1800 346 288

**Email:** [infowa@dimattinacoffee.com.au](mailto:infowa@dimattinacoffee.com.au)

**Website:** <https://www.dimattinacoffee.com.au/>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/dimattinacoffee/>



Top international drone photographer, **Giro La Pira** gave us a new perspective on our club from 300 feet up.

## What about here?

The VFA's Vic Fishing app also features a "Can I Fish Here?" function, which uses your phone's GPS location to determine whether you are within a marine park or sanctuary.



The app also contains a digital copy of the recreational fishing guide, so you can stay across bag and catch limits whenever and wherever you are fishing. It can be downloaded free from the App Store or Google Play.

## New sponsorship means savings for members

APYAC is proud to announce a new sponsor, Anaconda - Australia's largest outdoor adventure and sports superstore - an Australian family-owned business with over 70 stores and 2,000 team members.

Anaconda's Lisa Furze said: "Anaconda are thrilled to support Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club, at Anaconda you'll find all your fishing and adventure needs."

We've got an incredible range of products from some of the best brands. Come on in store and see our team."

Our Angling Committee's David Vitkin says members will be offered a promotional deal which puts dollars in their pockets.

Full details of member benefits will be available at the next club meeting.

# ANACONDA

**Your Club. Your Venue. Walk in. Walk out. #CovidSafe.**



Before Lockdown - it was all about the fish!



# ANACONDA

## **Anaconda - camping gear, tents, outdoor clothing and hiking**

Anaconda - The First choice, One Stop, Outdoor Adventure & Sporting retailer.

Mission Statement - To inspire, equip & enable Australians with the best value and broadest range of outdoor adventure and sporting products!

### **Short but sweet history**

Anaconda was founded in November 2004 by an Australian retailing family. Anaconda's founders were concerned that Australia's outdoor and adventure culture was in decline, with many people seeking their leisure and entertainment indoors. This family, who love the outdoors themselves, realised that Australia really didn't have a one-stop-shop for outdoor and adventure equipment. This is how the vision of Anaconda - Australia's largest camping and adventure superstore - was born.

### **Anaconda today**

Anaconda is not just a retail store, it's an experience. We have the largest range of outdoor products in Australia and source the best gear locally and internationally. Our gear is offered in an environment where visitors can take part in great activities and get the best local advice for their adventures.

Anaconda only recruits passionate experts to manage our stores - experts in camping, hiking, fishing, four-wheel-driving, cycling, kayaking, snorkeling, diving and rock climbing.

Trying and testing the equipment we sell is a big part of the Anaconda ethos. All our team members, much like our founders are seriously passionate about the outdoors and adventure.

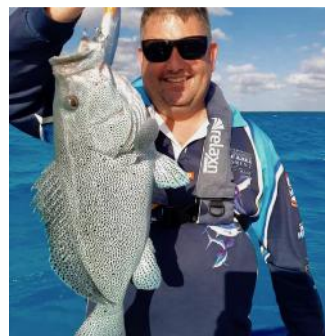
### **Our commitment**

Our commitment is to continue to provide high-quality gear and offer excellent value to all Australians.

Anaconda believes in giving back to the communities in which we live. The conservation of our national parks and the traditional homelands of the Aboriginal people is central to who we are. We promote only responsible outdoor pursuits and always take responsibility for our actions because the environment is our business.

Furthermore we believe that by striving toward our vision to inspire, equip and enable, we will help people enjoy the benefits of outdoor-oriented recreation, encouraging happier and healthier lifestyles.

... but it's really about the **people**



**Snapper Snippets** James Nixon Editor, writes and changes words, takes, steals & alters pictures.



We'll be back **there** soon.

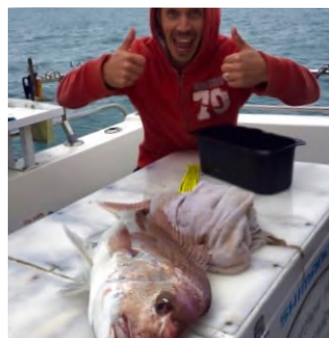




IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2021

'Alex!'



IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2021

## Your Club. Your Venue.

The best location for weddings, wakes, parties, or corporate events.  
Every Saturday night, and Monday to Wednesday, your club is available for functions.

Contact **Rob Raffa** for details on how we can host your event.  
[info@apyac.org.au](mailto:info@apyac.org.au) 9690 5530

# New Editor required

After producing six Snapper Snippets it's time to hand over to a new Editor.

With such a functional new website, it is quite possible that this the last edition to come out as a pdf, which will make your job much easier.

The role is voluntary, and made easier with the help of Bob Pearce, chief wrangler of stories about, and pictures of, things that were recently under the sea.

The team is large and includes Veronica Matheson, Kate Unsworth, Olga Harradine, Michelle Matthews, Sandra Rogerson, Lee Spyrou, Ian Sekac, Grant Brookes, Rob Raffa, the Committee members; and others I have forgotten to mention.

Contributors: One tip to make the job of editing the pictures easier. Hold your phone in landscape view, and use the Sun as your light. Have it behind you, over your shoulder. Line up the horizon. Take four photos, hopefully one will have their eyes unblinking, so they don't look like they're having a stroke, (the person not the fish).

And victims? Lose the bloody sunglasses. You look like blowflies. Blink your eyes before the shot to make your eyes shine, and remain rock steady.

Thank you to everyone who has helped, and the readers for the feedback.

If you would like to have a go with the Blue Pencil, email me.

James Nixon  
james@CrammondMedia.com



‘One  
Dimattina  
please’



“Only one?”

The perfect espresso martini made from **Dimattina Coffee**. Grab a friend. They come in pairs.