

# Friends of the Bluff Winter News

Winter - a good time to catch up on all those inside chores we have been avoiding over the finer months...or not. A good time to escape to warmer climes, more likely. Or for those of us left behind, time to hang out on that comfy couch in front of the heater with a good book and a glass of red. It would take a lot to drag me outside during the current southerly blast for sure. However, we do have a few events and activities coming up that may be of interest to some of you and they will (mostly) involve swapping ugg boots and dressing gown for outdoor shoes and warm jacket.

## Winter Conservation Conversation\*

Wednesday 18 June at the BCDC 7pm for 730 start.

Tj Mond, an environmental management graduate and member of FOB, will talk to us about one of her passions - conservation of the Great Southern Reef. I'll send out a separate flier/reminder for this talk later this week.

\* There will only be one Winter CC, as we will take a break for July and will hold the AGM in August.



## Citizen Science

Citizen science projects offer the opportunity to become involved in monitoring our local environment. Several projects that you might like to consider joining, either one-off or on a regular basis, include the sea slug census, the Friends of the Bluff Bioblitz and Parks Victoria's marine Rapid Health Assessment program.

### Sea slug census

Parks Victoria will be leading a sea slug census on the shores of the *Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary* on *Monday 30 June from 9 am*. They also have one planned for The Point Lonsdale Marine Reserve on Tuesday 1st July, similar time. You will need to register on [Parks Connect](#) to participate.



### FOB Bioblitz

We run regular bioblitzes of the Barwon Heads Marine Sanctuary and upload the search results to inaturalist. The aim is to build a picture of biodiversity within and around the sanctuary over time. You don't have to be an expert - all you need is a camera (the one on your phone, for example), the ability to negotiate rocky terrain and a curious mind. Winter can be a tricky time to

find suitable tides that coincide with daylight and kind weather conditions, though. A tentative date for our next one is *Wed 23rd July at 9am* - to be confirmed closer to the day

### **Rapid Health Assessment of marine ecosystems**

Friends of the Bluff are keen to trial community engagement in the Parks Victoria Rapid Health Assessment program. Monique Bregman from PV will tell us about the program during a session *at the BCDC on Tuesday 1st July from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm. She will then run through the methodology with us on the shore the following morning.* There will be further sessions if we have enough interest from you all. So, please let us know 1) whether you can attend the first introductory sessions and 2) whether you are interested in participating in the RHA program, but are unable to attend the initial sessions.

### **Nature Festival**

The 2025 Barwon Heads Nature Festival will be held during the first week of September school holidays (AFL grand final week): Mon 22 - Fri 26 September. We have a draft program and are now looking for interested members to assist with delivering this popular event. Our next *meeting will be held on Wed 9th July at the Barwon Coast Discovery Centre* - time to be confirmed.



### **Sharing the Love forum**

We have begun planning for the Sharing the Love forum - a thank you and networking event for marine conservation volunteers from across the State - that FOB will be hosting on the weekend of 24th - 26th October. We are keen to establish a local working group to assist us with running this event. Anything from helping with correspondence and advertising in the early days, to setting up the event spaces and serving meals during the forum. We will likely hold the first meeting for the local working group sometime in July, so please email us at [Reimaginebluff2022@gmail.com](mailto:Reimaginebluff2022@gmail.com) if you would like to be involved.

### **Barwon Coast Foreshore management plan community workshops**

As part of the development of a 15-year Foreshore Master Plan, Barwon Coast are holding a series of interactive Community Design Workshops. These sessions are your chance to help shape a shared vision for the future of the Barwon Coast foreshore. There are 19 sessions of 50 minutes duration available between Friday 27 – Sunday 29 June, but you do need to book: [Click here to book your session.](#)

**Location:** Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club

Well, that's all for now folks. Stay warm!

