



Friends of The Bluff

Caring for the unique Barwon Bluff since 1994

NOVEMBER 2025

What's on

November 19, 7 for 7.30pm

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION @Barwon Coast Discovery Centre

Come and hear Luke Hynes talking about Jan Juc Coast Action and coastal grassland restoration.

Light refreshments and drinks provided.
Entry is free – just come along.

Check out the flyer At
www.barwonbluff.com.au/news/

EVENT REPORT

SHARING THE LOVE 6

More than 60 passionate marine volunteers from across Victoria gathered in Barwon Heads for the sixth Sharing the Love forum, hosted by Friends of the Bluff, on the last weekend of October.

The three-day gathering brought together citizen scientists, marine experts, and volunteer groups to share ideas, strengthen networks, and highlight the incredible volunteer efforts that help conserve Victoria's marine environments.

The weekend opened with a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Wadawurrung Country by Wadawurrung woman Corrina Eccles (cont. p.2)



KEEP READING OVER THE PAGE...

December 3rd, 5th and 12th

RAPID HEALTH ASSESSMENT & BIOBLITZ

@Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary

Details over the page...

SUMMER BY THE SEA

Friends of the Bluff will once again play a role in the statewide 'Summer by the Sea' program featuring holiday events focused on the marine and coastal environment. Volunteers are needed.

Details over the page...

December 13th or 14th

GREAT VICTORIAN FISH COUNT @Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary

Details over the page...



Sharing the Love 6 (cont.)

The weekend featured inspiring talks from Dr Michael Sams, Manager of Marine and Coastal Science and Programs at Parks Victoria, and Holly Baird, from Friends of Beware Reef in East Gippsland. Holly captivated the audience with stunning underwater photography and stories from her snorkeling adventures.



There were numerous volunteer-led workshops and field sessions out on the Bluff over the two days, including a sea slug census. Despite wet and windy weather, spirits stayed high – especially when colourful sea slugs were found! One of the most memorable parts of the weekend was the sense of community it created. Between workshops and over delicious meals prepared by Feed Me Surf Coast, people who arrived as strangers quickly became friends, bonding over stories, laughter, and a shared passion for protecting Victoria's marine environments.

The event was supported by Coastcare Victoria, Barwon Coast, and Parks Victoria, with Alison Marchant MP, Member for Bellarine, attending to welcome visitors and acknowledge the vital role of volunteers in caring for marine environments. Local artists Deb Fisher, Martin Bigmore, and Cassy Twomey also generously donated artwork for a raffle, leaving some participants with lifelong memories of the weekend.

Sharing the Love began as a simple conversation in 2010 between a few people who shared a deep love for Victoria's coast has since grown into a statewide tradition. The biannual event continues to connect and inspire those who care deeply about the health of Victoria's marine environments. It was a wonderful weekend.

Jenna Kentel

INTERESTED IN SNORKELLING THIS SUMMER?

Scan this QR code to join the FOTB snorkelling group on WhatsApp



RAPID HEALTH ASSESSMENT & BIOBLITZ @Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary

We'll be running two of our regular citizen science exercises during December. These will run for two hours on these dates & times:

December 3rd at 2.30 pm, 5th at 5pm and 12th at 11am .

Email Chris to express your interest in one or more dates. No prior expertise needed. Training provided on the day.

SUMMER BY THE SEA ADVANCED NOTICE

Friends of the Bluff will run our usual program of rockpool rambles and bluff walks during January 2026 – dates to be confirmed. We will be looking for volunteers to assist with the rockpool rambles. Email Chris if you would like to help.

GREAT VICTORIAN FISH COUNT @Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary

We're taking part in the annual Great Victorian Fish Count, the biggest citizen-science event on Victoria's marine calendar. Weather permitting, our count will take place in the early afternoon of **December 13 or 14**, snorkelling in the waters off the Bluff. Please email Mark to register your interest – more details to come.

NURTURING OUR NETWORK CELEBRATION EVENT @ Lahey Square, Barwon Heads

Hosted by Bellarine Catchment Network, this event will celebrate the environmental volunteers who care for the Bellarine Peninsula, and offer the chance to discover how you can get involved this summer.

December 6, 10am–12pm. Free event, but you need to book. Details and bookings here.