



**Friends of
The Bluff**
Caring for the unique Barwon Bluff since 1994

APRIL 2026

What's on

EVENT REPORT

HEALTH CHECK FOR OUR BLUFF

Friends of the Bluff are playing an ongoing role in monitoring the health of the rocky shores of the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary. We conduct surveys three to four times a year using a rapid health assessment (RHA) methodology developed by Parks Victoria.

Following at pre-determined path across the shore, we record the percent coverage of the dominant alga *Hormosira banksii* (Neptunes necklace), and the occurrence and abundance of several common invertebrate species.

After completing the RHA component we bioblitz i.e. we record all manner of cool and interesting life forms. Photographs of our finds are uploaded to [iNaturalist](https://www.naturalist.org), plus a list of the species seen is compiled to enable comparisons over time.

Continued over...



KEEP READING OVER THE PAGE...

Wednesday, April 15, 7pm for 7.30

**CONSERVATION
CONVERSATION**

@Barwon Heads Discover Centre

**Geelong's Draft
Plan for Nature**

This month, Jeanette Spittle, Co-ordinator Environment and Biodiversity with the City of Greater Geelong, will brief us on the recently released draft of the city's Plan for Nature from 2026 to 2036.

Jeanette will also be seeking questions and feedback on the draft.

Join us at the Lobster Pot at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

[Click here to preview the draft.](#)

(Turn the page for more ...)



Conservation Conversations

Jeanette Spittle- Draft Plan for Nature
 Co-ordinator Environment and Biodiversity
 City of Greater Geelong

Wednesday 15th APRIL
 7.00 for 7.30 pm

Light refreshment and wine by donation

Barwon Coast Discovery Centre
 (Lobster Pot)

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

DRAFT PLAN FOR NATURE

2026-2036

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

MAP

Friends of The Bluff
 caring for the unique Barwon Bluff since 1972

Bluff Health Check (cont.)

The before and after summer surveys for 2025-2026 have been completed. The most obvious difference noted was an increase in worn pathways and patches through the *Hormosira* beds. It will be interesting to see if these patches regenerate by the time of our winter survey.

On the day of the last survey, we were fortunate to experience a super-low tide. This enabled us to find several species we might not usually encounter. Pictured here are a blue-ringed octopus (front page), an ocellated sea star, a key-hole limpet, a biscuit star and a chromodorid nudibranch.

You don't need any particular knowledge or experience to take part in these surveys - you can learn as you go - so please consider joining us on future surveys. You will be forgiven for not being too keen mid-winter, though.

Chris Porter



AUTUMN SEA SLUG CENSUS: GET INVOLVED BEFORE IT GETS TOO COLD!

April is the time to hone your skills as a nudibranch (sea slug) spotter and counter.

Kade Mills, ReefWatch Coordinator with the Victorian National Parks Association is asking for anyone who has the chance to get out onto the Victorian coast and record any sea slugs you can find between April 3 and April 12.

Take photos and upload them to [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org), contributing to a state-wide effort.

For more information along with tips for sea slugging, [visit the VNPA census page here](#).

PARKSVIC CENSUS AT POINT LONSDALE, APRIL 21, 9AM - 11AM

An additional sea slug census is being run by Nicki Filby of Parks Victoria on April 21 at Point Lonsdale.

If you've never been involved in finding sea slugs before, this is an ideal chance to learn the 'trade' with a marine ranger.

You'll need to register for this one at ParkConnect. [Details are available here](#).

NEWS

SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED A LIKELY BREEDING GROUND FOR BANJO SHARKS IN SWAN BAY

The [ABC reports](#) that researchers are tracking more than 100 sharks and rays in Port Phillip Bay to assess how they're affected by climate change and human behaviour. As part of that work, Deakin University PhD researcher Louisa Graf has identified what she believes is a nursery for banjo sharks and other species. [Read more...](#)