



Wader Beach Update

Volume 2 no. 11

November/December 2016

Project Partners



A big Thank You to all our volunteers!

What did we do in 2016?

Gathering for one of our Wader Beach Clean Ups



Canoeing up the waterways looking for litter.



Monthly surveys at Wader Beach

Joining the Boomerang Bag initiative.



Roberto the Connie entertaining the kids at our annual family event.

A very busy and successful year!

Welcome Diver Matt!



We are delighted to announce that Matt McArthur has agreed to join us as our new local Baykeeper Ambassador. Matt is a well known local marine scientist and educator who co-founded the 3018 Altona Beach Patrol. More importantly he was also on the winning team at our Plastic Free July Trivia Night!!



One of Matt's main activities is providing incursions into schools to engage students of all ages with our marine environment. He is often accompanied by his mate Sam the Seahorse much to the delight of young and old.

Thank you Matt, it's great to have you join us!

Latest News on the Plastic Bag Ban.

The Environment and Planning Committee of the Victorian Parliament is holding an Inquiry into Plastic Pollution. On 1st December a public hearing was held for individuals and groups to present the case for a ban. You can find out more at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PlasticBagFreeVictoria/> and <http://plasticfreesea.com.au>

South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory, ACT and Queensland have all introduced bans.

COME ON VICTORIA, DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND!!

Litter Survey News from Peter.

Impact of plastics on local fishes

65 specimens of mostly snapper and flathead have been sampled with the co-operation of the Williamstown and Newport Anglers Club. No evidence for plastic items have been found in the gut contents. Sampling will continue over the summer months.

Our regular monthly Wader Beach surveys will continue until March next year

Waterway News from Nick.

Almost all the litter trap sites have been visited and the report for Council will be ready in March.

Litter has escaped from this trap across a stormwater outlet in Laverton. It was guarded by a large tiger snake so the litter stayed where it was!



Working together

Our new local Baykeeper Ambassador, Matt, and Karen, one of our litter monitors, joined Neil the Baykeeper to introduce students from Altona Green Primary School to our wonderful natural environment at Jawbone last week.



North Western Shorelines get together.

It must be time to get together with the other groups around our part of the Bay and share our news. In January we will start to organise a function for late February so watch this space for your invitation. If you would like to share your news, drop us a line at waderbeach@gmail.com

Have a wonderful time during the Christmas break and summer holidays!

Two of the Wader Beach team have already had their Christmas holiday and spent a wonderful week snorkelling and walking on Lord Howe Island. During their visit they took some time to check out how the Islanders manage their waste. This was **NOT** funded by the Victorian Government, but who can resist a visit to a waste management centre?

There is no space for waste in this World Heritage area so Lord Howe Island has banned single use plastic bags and has a rigorous recycling and waste sorting system. All food wastes are composted, glass bottles are crushed to produce substrate for use in construction projects and residents and visitors are actively encouraged to minimise waste. The notices are subtle but everyone gets the message. Wouldn't it be good if everyone here adopted the same attitude? Many do, but we still have our work cut with some members of the community.



Crushed glass for substrate in building works



The composter for all food and garden waste provides mulch for the gardens and parks



Segregated waste bins are clearly marked and close to all the picnic spots.



And fresh clean water is available for refilling drink bottles.

Please come and help us!

Wader Beach project team

We are always looking for volunteers and the Wader Beach project team meets regularly to ensure that the overall project is progressing well and to manage any changes in our tasks. We welcome any of our volunteers to join our project team.

Current members of the Wader Beach project team are:

- Marilyn Olliff (FOWW) Project coordinator and team leader for community awareness-raising.
- Peter Smith (FOWW) Team leader for litter surveys and impact investigations
- Nick Olliff (FOWW/JMSCG) Team leader waterway investigations
- Ian Rae (FOWW President)
- David Speller (JMSCG President)
- Matt McArthur (Diver Matt) North Western Shorelines Baykeeper Ambassador.

If you would like to join the project team, please contact us at waderbeach@gmail.com

Follow us on facebook: www.facebook.com/FOWWInc

*A Merry Christmas
and a very Happy
and litter-free 2017
to you all!*

