



# Wader Beach Update

Volume 3 no. 1

January 2017

## Project Partners



## Happy New Year!

The Wader Beach Team wishes every one of our supporters and their families a very happy and healthy 2017.

Globally, 2017 is going to be a very bumpy ride for our natural environment from both changing political agendas and the increasing effects of climate change.

Here is our wish list for the year to make positive changes in our own backyard:

### In Victoria:

- A ban on single use plastic bags.
- Cash for containers.
- Success for Tangaroa Blue's Source Reduction Project.

### In Hobsons Bay:

- Continued support from our Councillors and council staff for local environmental projects.
- More opportunities to help our community *Say NO to plastic bags.*
- Well-maintained and stronger environmental partnerships.



### At Wader Beach:

- Ongoing care from our local community after the Wader Beach Project officially ends in April 2017.
- A healthier foreshore with more birds, mangroves, saltmarsh plants, and less litter.
- Dog owners to keep their dogs in the off leash zones at Altona and away from Wader Beach



*Sadly some folk ignore the signs and just don't care about the problems caused by dogs at Wader Beach.*

## Latest News !!!!

### Working towards a Plastic Bag Ban in Victoria.

South Australia, Tasmania, ACT and the Northern Territory all have state-wide bans in place and there is movement in NSW to ban single use plastic bags. We must take action here in Victoria. Follow the latest news from Plastic Bag Free Victoria.

<http://us12.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a9091a500790142212e29606e&id=2275c12c62&e=f6490c7461>

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### Boomerang Alliance is helping the Victorian Campaign for Cash for Containers.

Victoria is the last mainland state without a commitment to introduce a container deposit system (CDS). Victoria has significantly higher volumes of litter than the national average. Beverage containers are over 40% of the volume of litter and make up over 30% of marine plastic pollution in Australia. The Boomerang Alliance is providing resources to the Victorian campaign. Find out more at

[http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/cash\\_for\\_containers](http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/cash_for_containers)

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### Tangaroa Blue Source Reduction Workshops.

Join us at a Tangaroa Blue workshop to help find ways to stop the flow of rubbish into Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra River. Please come along to the Hobsons Bay workshop at the Civic Centre on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 9-1pm. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-together-to-target-the-source-of-marine-debris-litter-registration-29183528720>

Find out more at:

<http://www.tangaroablue.org/amdi/amdi-program/vic/711-port-philip-source-reduction-workshops.html>

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### Litter Survey News from Peter.

During our January survey, after the storms and heavy rain over Christmas, there was a lot of new litter along Wader Beach. In particular, plastic bags, parts of soft plastics, and plastic bottles washed up along the strandline. The strandline was, for the most part, outside our survey quadrats but the two transect surveys (started last year in conjunction with Neil Blake) did capture this area. The January 2017 litter counts showed a marked increase in plastic litter items over the past few months.



*So many bait bags on Wader Beach in January!*

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### Waterway News from Nick.



We are in the process of revisiting all 24 litter traps marked on the Hobsons Bay City Council drainage map to compare with visits earlier in the year. Comparisons will help us demonstrate some of the problems in our report to HBCC.

*Outlet at Jawbone. Not so clogged up now, but still plenty of litter.*

*March 2016*

*December 2016*



## Raising awareness on Australia Day

Altona Village Traders Association put on a wonderful festival at Altona every year. This year, for the first time, they provided an 'Enviro Marquee' to help us spread our messages.

A big **THANK YOU** to Sharon and Kim from AVTA!

It is wonderful to see how many people have taken notice of our Boomerang Bag campaign in Hobsons Bay. We are reaching out to the wider community, attracting retailers and shoppers and helped by our volunteers from the Country Women's Association, the Willy Loom Room and BayWest Bicycle Users Group.



*Attracting the crowds with Diver Matt and Sam the Seadragon, Dominique from Altona Beach Patrol and Lori from BayWest Bugs!*

## Building partnerships and working together

### North Western Shorelines get together



Our next **North Western Shorelines get together** is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February. We will hold the meeting on the SV Pelican for a sail along our North Western Shoreline to trawl for litter and learn more about litter surveys.

This is a great opportunity to network with like-minded groups. Invitations have been sent to local environmental groups asking for representatives to share their stories.

There are still a few places left, so if you are not representing your group but would like to come along, just email us at [waderbeach@gmail.com](mailto:waderbeach@gmail.com) and you will be added to our waiting list.



SV Pelican <https://pelican-expeditions.squarespace.com>

## Clean up Australia Day

Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> is Clean Up Australia Day. We will have three groups along Jawbone Reserve, Williamstown as we did last year, so just choose your favourite spot.

- Friends of Williamstown Wetlands at Paisley Challis Wetland 10-12pm. Meet at the corner of Maddox Road and Kororoit Creek Road.
- Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group at the Arboretum 10-12pm. Meet at the corner of Rifle Range Drive and Mullins Court.
- Sea Shepherd Marine Debris Campaign Team and Scab Duty at wader Beach 1pm-3pm . Meet at the Causeway opposite 18 Crofton Drive.

*Everyone is welcome to join the Wader Beach Team at the Causeway 12-1pm for a BBQ!*

*Vegans, vegetarians and omnivores all*



*Thank you to the Hobsons Bay City Council and Parks Victoria Rangers who came along to help us move the rubbish last year.*

*catered for.*

*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](mailto:waderbeach@gmail.com)

Follow us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/FOWWInc](http://www.facebook.com/FOWWInc)

*Just a couple of photos to remind you how lovely it is down at Jawbone!*



*Blue devil in full flower at the Arboretum, Eryngium ovium*



*A young Pacific Gull , Larus pacificus, having a splash with some snorkelers at Jawbone Marine Sanctuary.*