

Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Inc.

Newsletter No.7 Spring -Summer 2010

Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group
<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au>
jawbonemarinesanctuary@gmail.com

AGM 2010

A great turnout (18 people) "and celebration of the past year" including an entertaining presentation by John Gaskell coauthor of "Beneath our Bay – Discovering the hidden secrets of Port Phillip"

A few changes to the committee post the AGM and some upcoming events to look forward to...

The 2010/11 Committee

President	Dan Wade
Vice President	Sandy Webb
Treasurer	Megan Pine
Secretary	Rachel Marchbank
Activities Coordinator	Ryan Bath
General Committee	Erin Nash Carol Majernik Annelise Peyton Neil Emmett David Speller
Newsletter	Jacqui Hewitt

Activities

- Sunday 6 March 2011 Clean Up Australia Day
- Fish Count Dec 5 2010 (with post activity Christmas BBQ)
- Summer by the Sea program 13/1 2pm or 14/1 (2:30pm)
- Weekend snorkel days as per the roster (weather dependent)
- Night snorkel/dive led by Sandy Webb and Phil Watson 11 November (See Creature Feature)
- Next meeting November 9 at Steampacket Hotel 13 Cole Street Williamstown
- Point Cooke Grateloupia survey is going to be Sunday 7th November at 10.30 am sharp. Any interested participants must RSVP to Emily Matheson at Parks Victoria on 0419 553 012 or email ematheso@parks.vic.gov.au

Beneath our Bay – Discovering the secrets of Port Phillip

John Gaskell co-author of Beneath Our Bay was guest speaker at the AGM. We were particularly interested in how John and his collaborators took the amazing photos in the book given that they were all taken on snorkel.

John told us that the book, published in 2009, came about as a way to show people how beautiful the marine environment is in Port Phillip Bay. John dived at many spots around the bay with several of the photos taken at the Jawbone. Optimum conditions were generally found on nice sunny days with offshore winds at least two weeks after rain. John stated there were more than 500 species of fish in Port Phillip Bay.

He worked with two friends and took all pictures snorkelling in less than 5 metres of water. John had some useful hints for us. Firstly you don't need strobes or low light cameras when shooting close to the surface. He said it was important to get as close to the animals as possible, rather than zooming in from a distance and always use a flash for close-ups. He also said to use the macro setting on the camera for small objects, for anything up to 1 metre away.

John's book is a useful guide to those starting out identifying species at the Jawbone. John said they stuck to sites that people are familiar with, and which were easily accessible. He said all the sites in the book can be snorkeled - you don't have to SCUBA dive.

Winner of Beneath the Bay door prize at AGM – Andrew Christie.

Winner of Beneath the Bay photography award – Jen Hoskin and Stephanie Mills.

Membership

Don't forget that membership for 2010/11 is now due for this financial year - 2010-11..

Membership fees for 2010-11 have increased to \$25 for a family, \$15 for an adult, and \$8 for a child.

Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group

Membership details:

Name: -----

Address: -----

Suburb: ----- Postcode:-----

Email address: -----

Contact phone number: -----

Membership type: Family/Adult/Child

Please post this form to:

JMSCG Treasurer
14 Joiner St
Williamstown 3016
Victoria



Creature Feature

Southern Dumpling Squid; Southern Bobtail Squid

Phylum Mollusca
 Class Cephalopoda
 Family Sepiolidae
 Species Euprymna tasmanica

Habitat: Sheltered and moderately exposed sand, seagrass;
 0-15 m depth

Distribution: Shark Bay WA, to Brisbane Qld, and around
 Tasmania.

Maximum size: length to 40 mm (mantle)

(Ref: Graham J Edgar, Australian Marine Life, 2nd Edition
 New Holland Publishers 2008).

Night diving in the sanctuary reveals an entirely different per-
 spective on the area's ecology. A good example of such a
 species is the southern dumpling squid (*Euprymna tasmanica*).

They are a small squid and grow to a total length of 6-7cm (in-
 cluding the tentacles). They only live 5-8 months, but females
 produce several hundred eggs. They have a unique ability to
 generate a mucus coat to protect themselves. This coat can be
 seen in the first photograph, encircling the mantle.

These squid also have a symbiotic relationship with light-
 emitting bacteria. This enables the squid to produce light at
 night, known as counter-illumination. It is a form of
 camouflage that makes them harder to spot by predators such
 as flathead.

These squid commonly display aggressive and territorial
 responses to divers, which can be quite comical given their
 size. It feels like being attacked by a wonton. One photo shows
 a squid behaving this way towards the photographer (Sarah
 Speight).

We have seen these animals on most night scuba dives in the
 sanctuary.

The sanctuary is also an ideal location for night snorkelling.
 Sandy & I will be leading a night snorkel in the sanctuary
 before the end of the year, and we will have spare torches for
 anyone who needs them. This will be an ideal opportunity
 to get quite a different view of a familiar area. Please contact
 Sandy Webb at sandy_webb29@hotmail.com to register your
 interest.

Phil Watson.



Dumpling Squid mucus



Poorly hidden Dumpling Squid



Dumpling Squid on attack