



Book now for our 5th Annual Marine Science Forum

Bookings are now open for our 5th Annual Marine Science Forum. You can [download a Registration Form here](#) or from our website www.sapphirecoastdiscovery.com.au/visit/events/. Yet again we have a stellar line up of speakers, all presenting about global research projects that have a potential impact on our own region:

Who Cares?
Global research, local issues
SCMDC 5th Annual Marine Science Forum
Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May 2013
Eden Marine High School Hall

Speakers include:

- Dr Scott Ling**
Presentation title: Ocean warming, overfishing and overgrazing of kelp beds in eastern Tasmania
- Dr Jane Sexton**
Presentation title: Tsunami: how wet will you get?
- Dr Pia Winberg**
Presentation title: Oysters anyone?
- Dr Ezequiel Marzinelli**
Presentation title: Restoring underwater forests
- Dr Steve Eggins and Kate Holland**
Presentation title: Why put the acid on Twofold Bay's planktonic foraminifera?
- Kylie Owen**
Presentation title: Humpbacks lunging on local cuisine

Other images on poster: Dr Scott Ling (sea urchin), Dr Pia Winberg (oysters), Simon Talbot (diver), Scott Sheehan (whale), Dr Scott Ling (kelp).

For more information, or to download a registration form visit our website:
www.sapphirecoastdiscovery.com.au/visit/events/

Pelicans aplenty at the Australian Seabird Rescue Workshop

On Saturday 16th February a group of enthusiasts from across the Shire attended a workshop led by Julie Dunn, Founder of Australian Seabird Rescue South Coast, to learn about the capture and treatment of seabirds with injuries from such things as fish hooks and line. The workshop was part of a Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre grant project through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.



The workshop involved an introductory presentation highlighting some of the injuries that can be treated, capture methods and an overview of the recommended treatment of injuries. Julie said: "not all birds can be saved and at times as rescuers you will be faced with the unfortunate decision to euthanase a bird that may otherwise face a long and painful death."

After lunch the group met at a local boat ramp where Julie demonstrated her skills in humanely capturing birds to enable treatment to be applied. In perfect conditions, it did not take long for the local pelican and gull population to notice the abundance of tasty fish frames on offer.



With the help of SCMDC staff members Sheree Epe and Jillian Riethmuller, a healthy female pelican was caught and each workshop attendee was lucky enough to hold this magnificent bird. Attendee Jan Aveyard said "surprisingly these large birds weigh only 4 to 5kg and this bird was perfectly calm and even seemed to enjoy the attention."



After a quick inspection by Julie and others, our specimen was given the 'all clear' and released before a small gull was captured. This bird, too, seemed to be in good condition and after a quick check was also released.

Anybody wishing to join Australian Seabird Rescue South Coast branch can contact us at the Centre for more information. In the meantime, people are urged to keep the local ASR contact number in their mobile phone so that they can quickly report an injured bird: 0431 282 238.



This visitor was turtley awesome!

On Friday March 22, the Discovery Centre staff members were surprised and delighted when a man with a turtle turned up on our front door step.

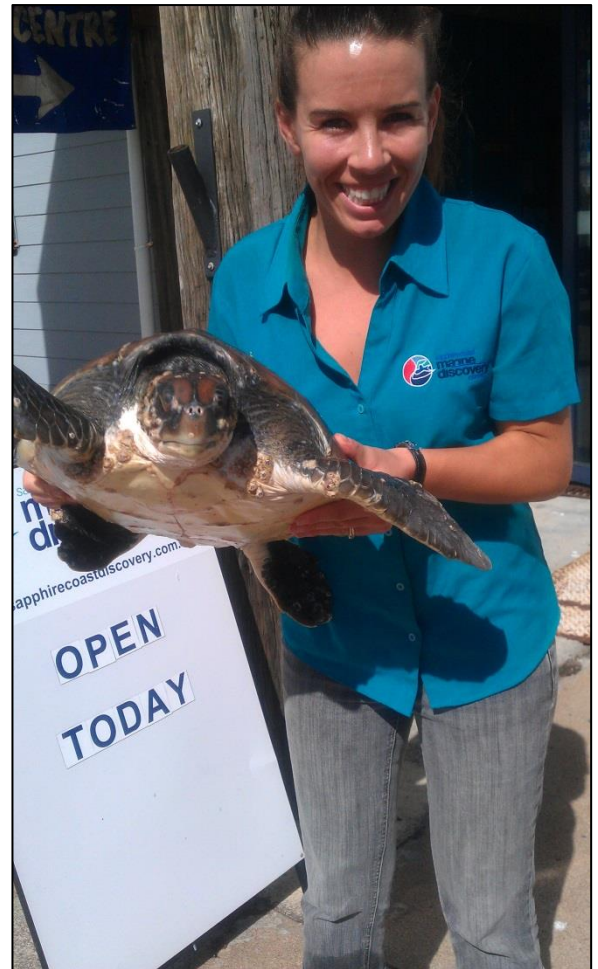
Michael Hewitt from Melbourne was happily fishing in Pambula Lake while on holiday when he came across a floating green turtle. He quickly collected her and brought her down to us hoping to find out how to best care for her. The staff rang WIRES branch president Janine Green, as she has experience in caring for and treating turtles. The turtle was taken to Janine and has since been moved to the Merimbula Aquarium for further care.

The couple who found the turtle has named her Ruby; she is an 11kg female green turtle. She has a problem with her shell and is being treated with antibiotics and vitamin B. She is now on the mend at the Merimbula Aquarium.

Our region is at the southern end of the green turtle distribution range.

Here are some interesting facts about green sea turtles:

- Green turtles are the largest of all the hard-shelled sea turtles, but have a comparatively small head.
- Adult green turtles are unique amongst sea turtles in that they eat only plants; they are herbivorous, feeding primarily on seagrasses and algae. This diet is thought to give them greenish-colored fat, from which they take their name.



Above: SCMDC Marine Education Officer Jillian with 'Ruby'



Support the Centre's growth by becoming an Associate Member

Community members are welcome to **join us as an Associate Member** at any time. Just go to our website www.sapphirecoastdiscovery.com.au and click on the "Who We Are" tab and under the heading for Associate Members you will find the Application Form.

The Associate Member group was formed in mid 2012 and is currently in the process of developing its Statement of Purpose. **Annual Member fees help to support the great work the staff and volunteers do** – both at the Centre in Eden – and further afield with our Outreach Programs. If you have any queries whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact us at the office on 02 6496 1699.

“It looks like someone poured orange paint into the water!”

Algal bloom causes some excitement on the Sapphire Coast

During March, residents of Eden and other towns on the Sapphire Coast were lucky enough to witness an algal bloom in local waters, with Twofold Bay being particularly impacted.

Algal blooms are a natural phenomenon caused by the reproduction of tiny microscopic phytoplankton including dinoflagellates, diatoms and algae. They often occur in Autumn and Spring when water temperatures are higher and ocean current movements are greater.

Some species that cause algal blooms can produce toxins and be harmful to fish, birds, shellfish and even humans. But not all algal blooms are harmful, in fact, many are beneficial as the tiny plants provide a food source for many organisms.



The algal bloom caused much excitement amongst the staff at SCMDC. Marine Scientist Sheree Epe and CEO Jenny Robb were lucky enough to be invited by local Water Policemen to tour the harbour in the Water Police vessel and assess the extent of the algal bloom. Sheree managed to collect some samples of the bloom and with the help of Bega Valley Shire Council's Derek Van Bracht, these were sent to the CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research Centre in Tasmania for analysis.


Scientists at CSIRO confirmed that the algal bloom was caused by the dinoflagellate *Noctiluca scintillans*. This species is not known to be toxic and is sometimes known as 'sea sparkle' because of its brilliant bioluminescence – the ability to produce and emit light.




redmap is coming to our area!

We are thrilled to announce that **Professor Natalie Moltschaniwskyj**, Associate Professor, Marine Science School of Environmental & Life Sciences, University of Newcastle, will be visiting our region from 28th May until 7th June this year, during which she will give community presentations about **redmap**.

Presentations are planned for Narooma, Tathra, Merimbula and Eden – dates and venues to be confirmed very soon so keep an eye on our website: www.sapphirecoastdiscovery.com.au for all the details. We are sure that many people will be keen to participate in the **redmap** initiative. See below for more information or visit www.redmap.org.au.



SPOT. LOG. MAP.



**LAUNCHED
DECEMBER 2012**

**LOG YOUR
SIGHTING**

WHAT IS REDMAP?

Each year over 3,000,000 Australians go fishing, diving or boating. Imagine...millions of potential 'citizen scientists' collecting valuable data about the marine environment! We did. **Welcome to REDMAP.**

WHAT?

Range Extension Database and Mapping Project: it captures information that will help assess how our marine ecosystems might be changing. Redmap invites recreational and commercial fishers, SCUBA divers, boaters and scientists to spot, log and map any uncommon marine species not usually seen in particular coastal areas. Some species may be new to your state, some may be shifting or extending their range, and the presence of others may vary seasonally. Over time, the data collected will provide a record of what marine species are on the move.

WHY?

Ocean temperatures around most parts of the Australian coast have warmed at over twice the global average, and even faster in the south-western and south-eastern regions. A temperature rise of a few degrees does not really sound like a lot; it actually sounds quite nice, especially if you have ever been swimming down south. However, for our marine ecosystems, small temperature changes are having a significant impact on the distribution of our marine species.

HOW?

Just log on to www.redmap.org.au and tell us what species you have spotted that you think are unusual for any given area. If you've got a photo that's even better! It does not require extra fishing or diving; just remember to log your sightings when you spot something unusual. We have a team of scientists across the country to verify species identity of submitted photos.

WHO?

You! We also have support from a large number of organisations spanning a diversity of community sectors that collectively are 'monitoring' a variety of marine ecosystems and 'reporting' sightings across a diverse range of species groups.

What's on the move around NSW?




Image: Dave Herald

LOG IT

if spotted south of Solitary Island Marine Park

Giant Trevally


(*Caranx ignobilis*)

One example of a species Redmap are mapping - for a full list see the website.


Log the unusual species you have spotted on the Redmap Map

WWW.REDMAP.ORG.AU


The University of Newcastle is the lead institute of REDMAP NSW



IMAS IS THE HOST OF REDMAP AUSTRALIA





An Australian Government Initiative



ands

AUSTRALIAN & NATIONAL DATA SERVICE





What's on the move around NSW?

On the back of the hugely successful Redmap Tasmania project, we have launched onto the national stage – with Redmap Australia! Including a new website, smartphone application and all the rest!!

HOW IT WORKS

Each state/territory has their own regional portal on the website and their own list of species to keep an eye out for – but all under the one website! So you can log a species at home... but also on your fishing/boating/diving holidays elsewhere!

Potato Rockcod
(*Epinephelus tukula*)



LOG IT if spotted anywhere in NSW

Image: David Harasti

Red Emperor
(*Lutjanus sebae*)



LOG IT if spotted anywhere in NSW

Image: David Harasti

Moorish Idol
(*Zanclus cornutus*)



LOG IT if spotted in (or south of) Port Stephens

Image: David Harasti



REDMAP AUSTRALIA IS HOSTED AND SUPPORTED AROUND AUSTRALIA BY:

Check out the website for photos and more info

To register your sighting visit: redmap.org.au
or contact the Redmap Team : nsw@redmap.org.au



REDMAP NSW IS SUPPORTED BY: NSW DPI, Southern River CMA, Community Environment Network, the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre and C20 Fisheries



We share so many great stories, information and photos on our facebook page log on and check us out or Tweet us on [Twitter](#)

The sea.....

“The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever.”

Jacques Yves Cousteau

“A lot of people attack the sea, I make love to it.”

Jacques Yves Cousteau

“The oceans deserve our respect and care, but you have to know something before you can care about it.”

Sylvia Earle

“There’s nothing more beautiful than the way the ocean refuses to stop kissing the shoreline, no matter how many times it’s sent away.”

Sarah Kay

Lynchpin, redmap and the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre

Our Forum last year was about ‘Connectivity’ and it’s amazing how connections can be made. A staff member (Pam Elliott) from fellow Marine Discovery Centres Australia member (Woodbridge MDC) told Marine Science PhD Candidate Jorge Ramos (from Mexico) that our octopus had had babies (*Connection #1*). Jorge then contacted our Operations Assistant Kerryn Wood (*Connection #2*), as he is studying for a PhD at the University of Tasmania about the range extension towards Tasmania of the Common Sydney octopus (*Octopus tetricus*) under the supervision of Dr. Gretta Pecl and Dr. Jayson Semmens.

One thing led to another and Kerryn has now provided Jorge with some samples of an octopus that had died for his work and one of Kerryn’s images has played a small part in a beautiful little animation produced through a Lynchpin Scholarship. You can view the animation by clicking on this link: [“Forests of the Sea”](#).



One of Jorge’s supervisors is Dr Pecl who is heavily involved in Redmap (*Connection #3*) – see earlier article.

Left: the *stop-motion* team: Marine Science PhD Candidates: Jorge Ramos, **Mexico** and Felipe Briceno **Chile** with **Dutch** artist: Malou Zuidema.

(image courtesy of the Lynchpin website)

WEB CHECK

This edition’s recommended websites.
(hover your mouse over the link for instructions)

<http://www.lynchpin.org.au/>

<http://www.lynchpin.org.au/scholarships/our-scholars/>

<http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/>

VOLUNTEERS...volunteers...VOLUNTEERS...volunteers...VOLUNTEERS....

Volunteers are a special and integral part of any community based not-for-profit organisation, not least the SCMDC. We provide training in a variety of volunteering roles so why not give us a call and consider joining our dynamic team? Commitment times are very flexible and will be honed to suit your needs.

**For further information, please contact Kerry Wood on 02 6496 1699
or email at kerry.wood@sapphirecoastdiscovery.com.au**

Bermagui Seaside Fair

Staff and Volunteers from SCMDC had their usual presence at the Annual Bermagui Seaside Fair on March 9th. Thanks to the local IMB Branch for yet again lending a marquee for the stall and huge thanks to volunteer guides Anita & Neil Paget and Marg Henry (who was ably supported by her husband John) for helping out. By all reports all were so busy answering queries about the Centre's activities and displays that they hardly had a chance to scratch.

The Seaside Fair is always a wonderful community event in a fantastic setting and our touch tank of live animals and table full of dried specimens always draws a lot of interest. Thanks also to Christine Bimson and others in the Committee for waiving the stall fee for us every year.



Above Left to Right: Marine Scientist Sheree Epe answering some queries, Volunteer Marg Henry with husband John – maybe contemplating what goodies they can buy? And Marine Education Officer Jillian Riethmuller doing what she does best – smiling!

SCMDC ANNUAL PASSES

AVAILABLE NOW!!

FEES:

Family (2adults + 3 children)	\$45
Extra child	\$5 each
Adult (16+)	\$25
Pensioners/students	\$20

WHAT DO YOU GET? Unlimited Entry for 12 months to the Discovery Centre + 10% off retail stock + Buy 1 coffee & get the 2nd coffee FREE from Great White Bite Cafe

CONTACT KERRY WOOD AT THE CENTRE TO PURCHASE YOUR PASS!