

Community Update

August 2021

Keeping our neighbours informed

Welcome to our Port of Melbourne Community Update.

This quarterly newsletter will keep you informed about what's happening at the port. If there's anything you'd like to hear about, drop us a line – our contact details are over the page. Thanks for reading!

Seafarer welfare

As Melburnians we are all aware of the challenges COVID-19 lockdowns have had on our wellbeing and watched as many countries around the world experience huge rates of COVID-19 infection. For seafarers though, COVID-19 has created difficulties most of us could not comprehend.

Shipping is essential to global trade and the support of many countries' economies, however to ensure shipping did not become a COVID-19 spreading event like aviation, seafarers have not been allowed to leave their ships when in port. This has created a situation across the globe where some seafarers have been at sea for nearly 18 months, not stepping foot on land or seeing their families and friends.

Mission to Seafarers and Stella Maris are two Melbourne based not-for profit organisations which provide support services for seafarers. Usually this consists of providing support to seafarers when on shore leave in Melbourne such as accommodation and assistance contacting home, however during COVID-19 both groups have been working diligently to prepare care packages for seafarers to deliver to

ships when in port. These packages can be anything from essential personal items like toothpaste and underwear through to food packages and electronic goods. Both organisations rely on donations to support seafarers. Port of Melbourne is proud to support both the Mission to Seafarers and Stella Maris.

If you would like to donate to either organisation you can do so on their websites.

www.missiontoseafarers.com.au

www.stellamaris.org.au

Todd Road landscaping

A program to repair the Todd Road landscaping adjacent to the Port has recently been completed. The strip of vegetation along Todd Road provides an important wildlife corridor between Westgate Park and Maritime Cove.

Last year we conducted an investigation to determine the cause of die back in the area and this has informed the re-vegetation plan to fix the issues. Working with local land care group Westgate Biodiversity and Bili Nursery and Landcare Group, a new native planting regime was developed.

13,000 tube stock native plants were used to re-vegetate the area supported by an extensive mulching and watering program to assist plant growth.

The plants were purchased by PoM from Westgate Biodiversity and Bili Nursery and Landcare Group who propagated the plants specifically for the project.

Their local expertise was invaluable in successfully delivering the planting program.



Rail siren investigation

As part of Port of Melbourne's noise investigations we have been trialling alternate rail safety sirens at the Victoria Dock facility.

The sirens are used during day time train shunting activities to alert staff to train movements – a mandatory safety requirement. Due to the need for the siren to be heard over a train the sirens can sometimes cause annoyance in the community.

PoM has implemented a muffling system on the existing sirens which has lowered the decibel output at the source reducing the annoyance that may occur in neighboring residential buildings.

We will continue to work with the operators of the facility to monitor ongoing effectiveness of the reduction.

Congratulations to WSLSC

Congratulations to our community partner Williamston Swimming and Life Saving Club which has secured \$11 million dollars in funding from the State Government to redevelop the club's ageing facilities.

The upgrade will include restoration and retention of the heritage hall and tower and construction of a new indoor pool which will allow the club to expand it's learn to swim program. As a corporate supporter of the club and it's learn to swim program this is fantastic news and we congratulate everyone at the club who has been working towards this outcome.

Marine pest surveillance

Port of Melbourne is working with Agriculture Victoria on a marine pest surveillance pilot program in the Port. The program was established following the recent discovery of the Asian Shore Crab at multiple locations within Port Phillip Bay.

Marine pests are highly invasive plants or animals that impact our environment and marine industries. Eradication of marine pests is only possible in extremely limited situations so incursions must be acted on early for any hope of achieving eradication.

The pilot surveillance program involves the installation of settlement array boxes and water sampling at various locations around the Port. The settlement arrays are attached to wharf structures via rope and move vertically with tidal changes; over time they collect evidence of mature fouling

organisms. Every two to three months samples from the arrays and water samples for plankton analysis are collected from the various locations around the Port.

The plankton samples capture microscopic plants and animals or fragments of DNA including planktonic life stages that may not be detected on settlement plates.

Analysis of the two sample types can reveal the presence of marine pests at the critical stage when they are scarce and immature, allowing detection before they can become established and disperse.

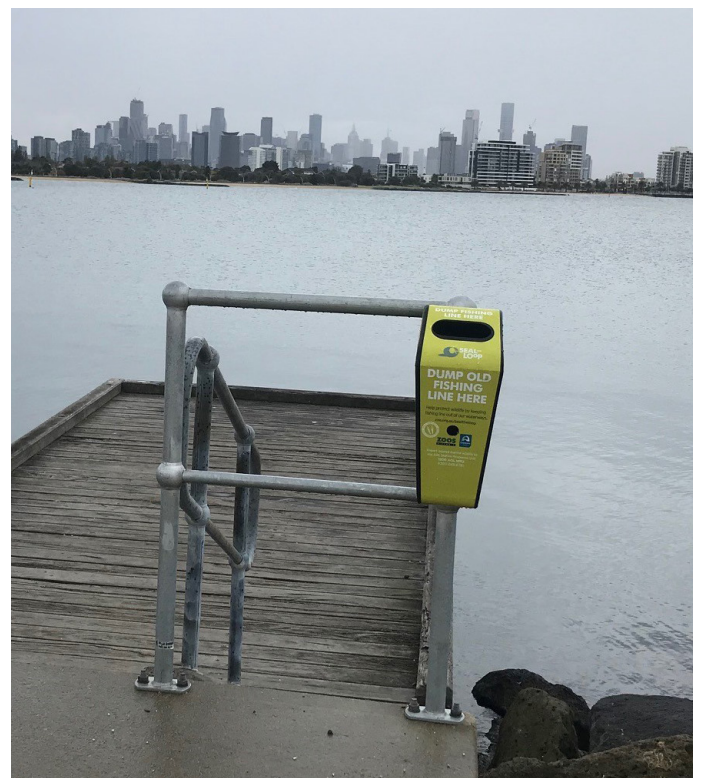
The pilot is proposed to run for approximately two years and if successful may become a long term program in the Port of Melbourne.

Seal the Loop

You may have noticed some new little yellow bins have popped up around the port. Port of Melbourne has expanded its involvement in Zoos Victoria's Seal the Loop program. The Seal the Loop bins provide anglers with easy access bins to responsibly dispose of their fishing line which can be harmful if it enters the marine environment.

Zoos Victoria advises that fishing line entanglements result in the deaths of an estimated 1,400 seals every year in Australia and impact a range of other wildlife species. The Port of Melbourne Seal the Loop Bins join a network of more than 300 bins located at popular fishing spots around Victoria. You can find Seal the Loop bins at fishing locations in front of the Newport Power Station, and Webb Dock Trail, Port Melbourne.

If there are any issues with the bins not being emptied, please contact us.



Contact

For more information, please go to our website or contact us via phone or email.

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