



ORCV

OCEAN RACING

2023-24 SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES



The 2023-24 season has been a time of rapid implementation of sustainability focussed initiatives within the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria. We are extremely proud of our dedicated and innovative team of volunteers who have worked independently to develop the below initiatives to make the sport of sailing more sustainable.

2023 NOVEMBER

The Melbourne to Devonport Rudder Cup return leg saw the ORCV fleet volunteer to road test at-sea microplastics sampling. The ORCVs desire to combine sailing with science and data generation benefitted hugely from this trial as monitoring kits were assembled and used by crews, providing the Clean Oceans team with valuable lessons learned and ideas to increase citizen science participation within the sailing community.



DECEMBER

Melbourne to Hobart 'Westcoaster' was a huge success with a suite of sustainability initiatives being a big part of the conversation during the planning of the event. Our first Species Showcase went live, platforming the worlds rarest fish and the conservation work done by the Handfish Conservation Project. On the ground we brought Recolab on board as a race village feature, who took spent sails from our fleet to upcycle into functional gear bags.

In addition, unusable rope was collected and posted to Castaway Textiles who created unique homewares and art. The club adopted the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas framework to track our progress and improvement over time through the events we run. Through efforts which included removing problematic single-use waste items, guidance around provisioning and waste sorting/disposal, a dedicated sustainability skippers briefing segment and competitions to encourage sustainable boating practice, the ORCV was granted Silver certification. The ORCV's material was also adopted by the Launceston to Hobart race organizers to be included in their event and widening the reach of initiatives. The ORCV are particularly proud of their work to be the first set of scaled sustainability initiatives for a marquee summer sailing event in Hobart.



WHAT EVEN IS A HANDFISH!?



EXCELLENT QUESTION!

Handfish are unique, illusive creatures, resembling an upset toad with modified pectoral fins that resemble human-like hands. They live on the seafloor where they eat worms, molluscs and crustaceans. They grow to around 10cm long and we dont know how long they live for. There are 3 species in the Hobart area:



ONLY PLACE TO CALL HOME



Spotted handfish are **critically endangered**. It is estiated that there are less than 3000 individuals remaining. **The Derwent Estuary is the only place on Earth** these fish are found, a truly iconic Tasmanian species



WHY ARE THEY SO RARE?

Spotted Handfish live in sheltered, fragile estuary floor areas. Historic dredging, introduced invasive species, vessel moorings, pollution and a warming climate create enormous pressures on these tiny, fragile creatures. So much about the Handfish is still unknown, and so we must act to protect its habitat to give one of the **worlds rarest fish** the best chance at recovering.



GIVE THE HANDFISH A HAND

Don't dump in the Derwent

Derwent Sailing Squadron have a convenient pump out station for sewerage waste. Call **03 6223 1977** to arrange

Contain your rubbish

Responsibly manage your waste and encourage it among others. Call out littering behaviour, and if you see litter, simply pick it up and place it in a bin



Species Showcase



Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc. (ORCV)

December 31, 2023 at 1:50 PM · 🌐



☀️👜 Check out Mel rocking the stylish Recolab bags! ♻️ Based in Coningham, Southern Tasmania, Recolab is on a mission to repurpose materials, saving them from ending up in landfills and preserving our beautiful island for generations to come.

Their commitment shines through in their high-quality, durable products, designed to stay out of landfills for a long, long time. Crafted from recycled boat sails, discarded camping tents, billboards, and top-notch marine-grade components, these bags are both eco-friendly and fashion-forward.

For more info and wholesale inquiries, shoot them an email at info@recolab.com.au. Let's support sustainable fashion and keep our environment and oceans pristine!!

Recolab

#Westcoaster #weloveourpeople #ORCV #ORCVfamily #M2H #ORCVcommunity #offshoreracing #Melbournetohobart





ORCV REVIVE DEAD SAILS

Make use of the designated drop off point near the ORCV van at the village area for any dead sails you wish to discard. They will be redirected for upcycling with **Recolab**, a local Tasmanian maker of unique sailcloth products



SAILCLOTH DROP-OFF



Race
village
collection
sign



Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc. (ORCV)

December 17, 2023 · 🌐



🌱 Sustainable Sailing Tip 7 🌊

@castawaytextiles

#ORCV #Oceanracing #sustainability #m2h #CleanOceans #environment #accountability #responsible

A SECOND LIFE FOR ROPE

Make use of the designated drop off point near the ORCV van at the Hobart village area for any broken, replaced or old ropes you wish to discard. They will be redirected for upcycling with **Castaway Textiles**, an artist with purpose to create beautiful, unique pieces from marine debris and discarded rope.

ROPE DROP-OFF



BYO BOTTLE

Everyone should be carrying their own water bottle with them on board and at our destinations. Refill at designated stations, or kindly ask a vendor, cafe or restaurant to refill for you.



SNACKS

Home cooking food like slice, muffins and quiche make for tasty, healthy and sustainable race snacks. Use up those older apples for an apple and cinnamon slice, fill quiches with seasonal nutritious vegetables, and store in a reusable container.



PROVISIONS

When prepping food for a multi-day race, plan how you might pack and store. Ceramic oven trays (if you have an oven on board), aluminium or tupperware are great reusable and recyclable alternatives to single-use wraps and throw-away containers.



RUBBISH

Remove unnecessary packaging such as boxes and extra plastic while at home, where it can be easily sorted to the correct bin. This reduces waste burden on board, and pressures on waste collection at destination finishes.



AVOID SINGLE USE BOTTLES

One of the easiest swaps to make on board is to opt for refillable casks or jerrys with tap water instead of purchasing bottled water. This is one easy way to reduce to volume of waste made on board. We strongly encourage our fleet to make this standard practice on board.



Green boating tips promoted on social media in preparation for the Westcoaster



Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc. (ORCV)

December 31, 2023 at 3:44 PM · 🌐



Team Ryujin donating their used sails to be repurposed by [Recolab](#) 🌱

#oceanracing #ORCV #ORCVcommunity #M2H #clean #ocean #cleanocean #sustainablesailing
#circulareconomy #repurpose #recycle #rolemodel
#rolemodelbehaviour



ORCV Melbourne to Hobart "Westcoaster"

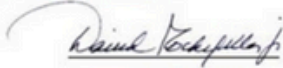
Hosted by Ocean Racing Club of Victoria

SILVER LEVEL
CLEAN REGATTAS CERTIFICATION

December 27 to 31, 2023



Emily Conklin
Program Manager
Sailors for the Sea



David Rockefeller, Jr.
Founder
Sailors for the Sea



2024 MARCH

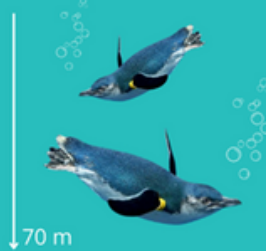
The Melbourne to King Island race featured the Grassy Harbour local legends, the Little Penguins in the Species Showcase. Here, the focus was on recent scientific findings where 'forever chemicals' (PFAS) were studied in the blood of the Little Penguins on King Island, a concern for the wider marine environment. For this among other efforts, we continued with the silver certification from Sailors for the Sea.

LITTLE PENGUINS

...BIG PERSONALITIES



PRO DIVERS



Australia's only and smallest, species of penguin call Grassy on King Island's east coast home. These small but vocal creatures can be seen at dusk returning to their burrows after days spent feeding at sea.

At a mere 30cm tall and 1.5 kg in weight, these hardy birds can dive to depths of 70m as they feed on fish and squid, travelling up to 20km in a single day in search for food.



PENGUINS & PFAS?

Dubbed "forever chemicals", poly-fluoroalkyl substances (aka PFAS) is the name for a large group of synthetic chemicals, typically used in non-stick coatings, firefighting and cosmetics.

There is global concern for these chemicals as they have widespread use and move freely in ecosystems.



A RECENT STUDY HAS FOUND PFAS WIDESPREAD IN TASSIE PENGUINS:

...even in low concentrations PFAS may have a detectable relationship with penguin health...

-Mel Wells, PhD Candidate, UTAS

Wells et al., (2024). Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in little penguins and associations with urbanisation and health parameters. *Science of The Total Environment*.

HOW DO WE AVOID PFAS?



Consider the cookware we use on our boats - alternatives without non-stick coatings



Avoid hair, cosmetic, and personal care products that contain "fluoro" in the ingredients list



PLEASE TAKE WHAT YOU MAKE KEEP KING ISLAND CLEAN



Sort, stow and dispose of boat generated waste when you get home





Melbourne to King Island
Hosted by Ocean Racing Club of Victoria

SILVER LEVEL
CLEAN REGATTAS CERTIFICATION

March 9 to 10, 2024

Emily Conklin
Program Manager
Sailors for the Sea

David Rocketteller, Jr.
Founder
Sailors for the Sea

MAY

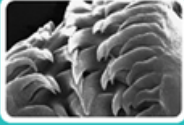
Venturing west for the Melbourne to Apollo Bay race, the Clean Oceans team brought the Vercos Nudibranch to the forefront of the social media feed in the species showcase, a colourful character local to the Otway Coast region. We paired with Otway Ocean Care to deliver this, and also planned a sustainability and biodiversity presentation feature during the race awards section of the event. This event was awarded silver by Sailors for the Sea.



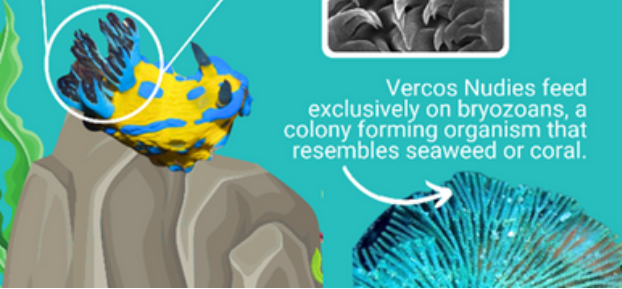
JEWEL IN THE UNDERWATER CROWN

Nudie = naked
Branch = gills

The carnivorous critters use a toothy plated structure called a 'radula' to scrape food into their mouth.



Vercos Nudies feed exclusively on bryozoans, a colony forming organism that resembles seaweed or coral.



LOVE SEEING NUDIES?

We do too! Our dazzling underwater life thrives when our coastlines and oceans are free from pollution and disturbance, so:

- Sweep up and contain filings, drillings and boat debris such as filler and paint, preventing it going into the water
- Consider the cleaning products we use on board that get washed into the water
- Keep a clean bilge and check for oil and fuel spills before a race or voyage

FOLLOW
@OTWAY OCEANCARE





Melbourne to Apollo Bay Regatta
Hosted by Ocean Racing Club of Victoria

SILVER LEVEL
CLEAN REGATTAS CERTIFICATION

May 25 to 26, 2024


Emily Conkin
Program Manager
Sailors for the Sea


David Rockefeller, Jr.
Founder
Sailors for the Sea

WINTER (JULY-AUGUST)

Our winter series showcases the Burrunan Dolphin, a rarity that only calls Port Philip Bay home and was recognised as a unique species just a decade ago. Our final winter series presentation also welcomes Dr Prue Francis from Deakin University who presents her research cultivating and restoring Golden Kelp in Port Philip Bay during times of a changing climate. Certification Pending from Sailors for the Sea.

ONE OF A KIND IN THE BAY



Images: Marine Mammal Foundation

THE BURRUNAN DOLPHIN

Tursiops australis

In 2011, a Victorian research team formally described a new species, the **Burrunan Dolphin**.

The word *Burrunan* is derived from the language of the kulin people in the bay region, where it has been used to describe dolphins over many thousands of years.

Burrunan:

"name of a large sea fish of the porpoise kind" used in Boonwurrung, Woiewurrung & Taungurung languages



Images: Marine Mammal Foundation

ONLY 2 RESIDENT POPULATIONS



The Burrunan Dolphins are only found permanently in two locations, Port Philip Bay (120 individuals) and the Gippsland Lakes region (65 individuals). Super rare!

At only ~2.5m in length these small but social dolphins can be seen in pods of up to 30 individuals

IDENTIFIED BY 3 STRIPES GOING FROM DARK TO LIGHT ALONG THE BODY

Images: Marine Mammal Foundation

THE BAY IS THEIR HAVEN

With only two known populations the species is classified **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED** by the Victorian Flora and Fauna Act.

As users and stewards of the marine environment, it is our responsibility to uphold good boating practice including avoiding and reducing pollution, responsible and cautious use of vessels near animals, and encouraging other along the way.

Your eyes on the water can contribute valuable data to the tracking of the Burrunan Dolphins. Log a sighting on the TrakMM page next time you see them!

LOG A SIGHTING



Images: Marine Mammal Foundation



WINTER SERIES SPECIAL GUEST DR PRUE FRANCIS

Dr Francis is a research scientist working to cultivate and restore golden kelp in Port Philip Bay. Combining tourism, education and research expertise, Dr Francis is a trailblazer, connecting people far and wide with science topics to drive interest and meaningful change to benefit our ocean ecosystems.

Dive into the world of life below the surface with Dr Prue Francis at our final Winter Series presentation.



GOING FORWARD

Season 2024-2025

Building on a successful year of initiatives the ORCV looks forward to expanding and continuing our focus on improving the sustainability of the sport we love. Our goals for the upcoming season include:

- Minimum gold standard certified by Sailors for the Sea for all destination races.
- Expand citizen science opportunities for ocean racers with research groups in Port Philip Bay region.
- Provide resources to our member base to empower sustainable decision making on the ground and on board.





The Ocean racing Club of Victoria are a passionate and enthusiastic community with a deep drive to make the sport of ocean racing enjoyable and sustainable. The ORCV are proud of our ongoing efforts to engage our members and participants with sustainable values in the sport, and look forward to growing this in the future

Lillian Stewart
ORCV Clean Oceans Coordinator

