



Victorian Coastal Monitoring Newsletter - March 2023

Hello and welcome to a brief VCMP Citizen Science newsletter!

It has been a while since we sent one out, and we know many of you have been wondering about the state of the VCMP. A lot has happened since our last newsletter and we would like to take a brief pause and reflect on the last 1.5 years of change and transitions. This included another four months of lockdowns, navigating a roadmap out of lockdown, and managing changes to restrictions, gatherings, and a return to work.

Your enthusiasm and support to this program during these unpredictable times is very much appreciated by the VCMP Science Team!

The VCMP Science Team has also seen some change and growth:

- **Blake Allan** joined the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in August 2022 as the Senior Drone Pilot and will continue to coordinate the UAV citizen science activities.
- **Sahar Kirmani** from DEECA will be working with Blake as a Coastal Monitoring Project Officer.
- **Jin Liu** joined the team at DEECA to work with Jak McCarroll to analyse and investigate the wide array of VCMP data. Jin is an ocean modeller.
- **Bec Stuart** joined the DEECA team in January 2023. Bec has a background in marine science and is assisting to update our communications strategy.
- **Dean Tobin** has joined the VCMP team as a field researcher with Deakin University and is working to conduct the UAV surveys along with Blake, Sahar and Jesse Sago.

We are excited to increase our capacity in coastal monitoring, analysis and research, allowing us to integrate and synthesise the VCMP data with many other coastal datasets, and to be made available through [CoastKit](#), [VicWaves](#) and other portals.

On the 1st of January 2023, the VCMP Science Team transitioned into the new **Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)**. The citizen science program is continuing while we navigate new guidance for operations and regulations for volunteers. Unfortunately, this

is having flow-on effects to the VCMP. Citizen scientists will be welcome at all VCMP mapping operations, but at some sites they will not be able to fly the UAV and will instead be assisting as a spotter. We are endeavouring to work through these issues and hope to have a solution by the end of the financial year. In the meantime, we will indicate in our email to the groups whether community members will or won't be able to fly the UAV for each mapping run. We are also exploring additional Citizen Science data collection at the sites, especially around independent data points to compare against the UAV data as a method of quality control.

We would like to take this opportunity to **thank you for your support** to this program, enthusiasm when out in the field, and persistence throughout the constant changes. We will be sending our next, and more detailed, newsletter in May, and we hope to have more information by that time. We look forward to seeing you at our next mapping event, but in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact vcmp@delwp.vic.gov.au

Ask a Researcher

In future editions of the VCMP Newsletter, we would like to provide an opportunity for **you** to engage with our research team and ask any questions.

If you have a question, please email it to vcmp@delwp.vic.gov.au with the subject line "Ask a Researcher" and we will do our best to answer them and include them in the next issue.

Please indicate in the email if you would like to remain anonymous.

Communications updates

As you can see from the new design of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Newsletter, we are updating our communications. We expect to release our new webpage in April. We will let you know when this is available.

In the meantime, you can visit our current [Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program](#) webpage.

Don't forget to check out Deakin University's [Story Maps](#).

Know someone who may be interested?

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested in keeping up-to-date with the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program.

Received this as a forwarded email? You can sign up to receive these newsletters directly by clicking 'sign up' at the bottom of the email.

Other Marine and Coastal News

Interested in hearing more about the work being undertaken in marine and coastal management in Victoria?

The quarterly “[DEECA marine and coasts newsletter](#)” shares news about DEECA’s work across the marine and coastal space, from policy and strategy to coastal protection projects. The newsletter also includes [Coastcare](#) Victoria’s ‘Coastline’ publication.

For the latest issue and to subscribe, visit the [DEECA marine and coasts newsletter](#) webpage

DEECA marine and coasts newsletter

Keep up to date with the latest marine and coastal news from DEECA



Challenges and updates

If you have experienced any other difficulties or challenges you would like to share, please contact us at vcmp@delwp.vic.gov.au.



We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria’s land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria’s Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using **TrueRemove®**
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

PO Box 500
East Melbourne, | 8002 Australia

This email was sent to rebecca.stuart@delwp.vic.gov.au.
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Copyright](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Contact us](#)
© Copyright State Government of Victoria