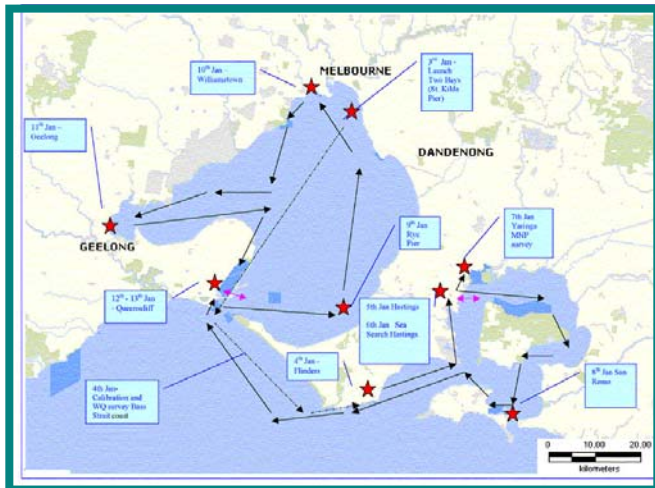


Monitoring First For Two Bays

Guillaume Martinez and Randall Lee, Marine Science had the opportunity to participate in the Two Bays 2007 program, a Pelican Expeditions initiative supported by Parks Victoria, and EPA Victoria, in partnership with the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, the Victorian Coastal Council, Melbourne Water, People and Parks Foundation, Coast Action / Coastcare and the Marine Discovery Centre, Queenscliff. Guillaume lived on board for the two week project and was joined by Randall in the second week. The project was launched on 3rd Jan from St Kilda Pier and then headed to Western Port and then onto Port Phillip Bay. The Two Bays Program 2007 comprised of:

- a comprehensive survey undertaken by EPA, using continuous underway monitoring of key water quality indicators within Port Phillip Bay and Westernport.
- Sea Search monitoring with volunteers at Mud Islands (Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park) and Fresh Island Marine National Park.
- Events were focussing on bay values, threats and community links at St Kilda Pier, Flinders, Hastings, Tooradin, San Remo, Queenscliff, Geelong, Rye and Williamstown.
- Promoting awareness of bay issues and current initiatives in local and state-wide media.

For more information about the events undertaken visit <http://www.svpelican.com.au/brain/twobays/pages/log.html>



Guillaume's Experience on the Pelican

When this project came up I thought: two weeks cruise around PPB and Westernport on a 19m catamaran sounds pretty good to me!!!!

So after a quick chat to the skipper and part of the crew, we agreed to load the gear and try the equipment the day before departure to make sure everything worked. As expected everything went wrong, in particular the pumping system (wrong size pipe, wrong debit pump on the boat, bubbles in the tubing....). Result, Randall and I had to rush off to the shops the next day to get the parts in time for the afternoon start from St Kilda pier on the 3rd January. We're off and everything works, but with the swell picking up I realised that the cruise, which I thought

would be really relaxing, could end up a disaster as my body doesn't seem to adapt very well to those moving computer screens in the improvised enclosed "lab cabin" (see pic). A seasick tablet later, back in business, we cruise at about 5 knots, perfect speed for our sampling equipment, everything works perfectly. First night on the boat around Portsea, after an anxious 30min I managed to go to sleep. The next day was what would become a standard cruising day: ritual seasick tablet intake, calibration of all equipment and checking of the pumping system for the underway monitoring set up and docking at a pier, chat with the public and media about the project.



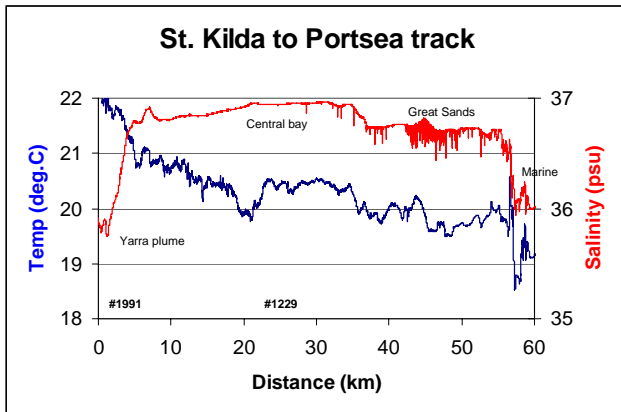
Gam setting up the monitoring system

What did we measure? Temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll *a* every second and Filtrable Reactive Phosphorus every 20 to 25s, depending on how well I could tune up the Flow Injection Analyser in the morning (which correlated to how awake I was...). All those parameters were recorded onto two laptops with GPS position streaming in at the same time (to create maps).

This was a pilot study to assess the feasibility and gauge interest from the community and different agencies for such programs. Judging by the media, community and government agencies' interest and enthusiasm and the quality of data we collected, I can state that it was a success.

From a personal perspective, it was great to be able to share a passion for the marine environment with the public and be part of the first continuous coastal monitoring of PPB and Western Port (and the portion of Bass Strait linking the two bays). And of course, cruising and sleeping on this magnificent boat, evening snorkelling and fishing, and a fantastic cook, I'll be putting my hand (hands!!!) up for next year!!!!

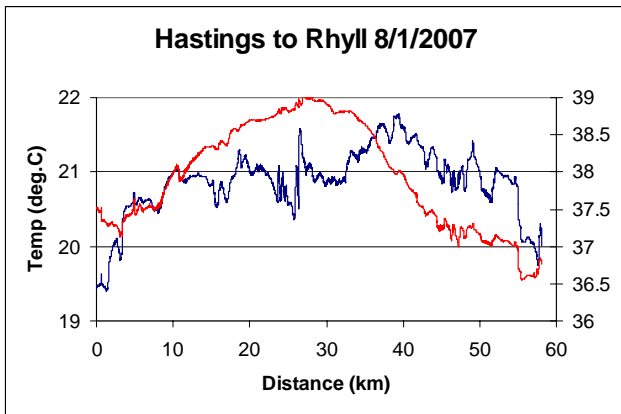
Data and Photos from the 2 Bays Project



Transect through Port Phillip Bay



Breakfast Meeting



Transect through Westernport



Crew at Rye Pier



Macleod Green Stars

The Macleod Green Stars (MGS) (and friends) held their inaugural meeting most appropriately on the same day as the Macleod shut down. MGS group members are Warwick Hoffmann (Energy), Ivo Tence (Energy), David Robinson (Water) and Jacquie Lamb (Green Purchasing). Tony Robinson helped kick off the process, along with Beth McLachlan and Sarah Froman from the EPA Green Stars Committee. Staff on projects, Liz Milla, Cecila Tram and Mick Ernest were guests.

We discussed how we work with the EPA Green Stars Committee and progress green improvements at Macleod. It was decided that the Green Stars Committee run major projects with input from our representatives and MGS run the smaller projects reporting to the Committee and gain knowledge from them.

EPA Green Stars current priority is reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Small projects are low budget low resource projects, for example, Mick is upgrading the worm farm. We're getting a state of the art, fully maintained worm farm, once the worms recover from the recent heat and dry conditions. For more information contact Mick.

Liz is looking at ways to help us reduce paper usage. Re-cycled toners are being trialled on the Freshwater/Marine printer and in Regional Services, by Jacquie and Maria. David Robinson has been recording our water usage on a monthly basis at Macleod, which we will be seeing the results of soon.

Staff are welcome to make suggestions, or offer their time to help with new projects by contacting a representative. We are particularly interested in a Marine representative for waste, so that all units are represented.

The committee plans to meet on a monthly basis. We'll keep you posted!