

EXPLORE UNDERWATER VICTORIA

www.exploreunderwater.vpna.org.au

Dive in to Explore Underwater Victoria to discover what lies beneath the waves of our magnificent marine waters, without leaving home.

Explore hidden underwater wonderlands of brilliantly coloured sponge gardens, rich forests of seaweed, sunlit seagrass meadows and sandy underwater plains.



Meet some of the 12,000+ different types of plants and animals that make their home along our coast, from the cool, nutrient-rich waters of the south-west to the warmer waters of the east.

The new Explore Underwater Victoria website features a great collection of underwater photographs, videos, educational resources and group contacts.

Explore Underwater Victoria is an initiative of the Victorian National Parks Association with support from Reef Watch Victoria and Museum Victoria. It's funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country, Coast Action/Coastcare, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority.

interesting facts about Victoria's marine environment

- Southern Australia has a higher percentage of endemic marine species than the Great Barrier Reef.
- More than 90 per cent of plants and animals in Southern Australian marine waters are found nowhere else in the world.
- There are 12000 (and counting) different types of plants and animals found in Victorian waters. More research is urgently needed to fill gaps in our knowledge.
- Only 5.3 per cent of Victoria's waters are protected in marine national parks and sanctuaries, with no significant marine and coastal protection initiatives in the last eight years.
- Our marine environment is under threat from the impacts of climate change as well as pollution, invasive species, over-fishing and coastal development.
- Victoria's state marine faunal emblem is the Weedy Seadragon (pictured below), which exemplifies the delicate and beautiful world found beneath the waters of Victoria's unique marine environment.

