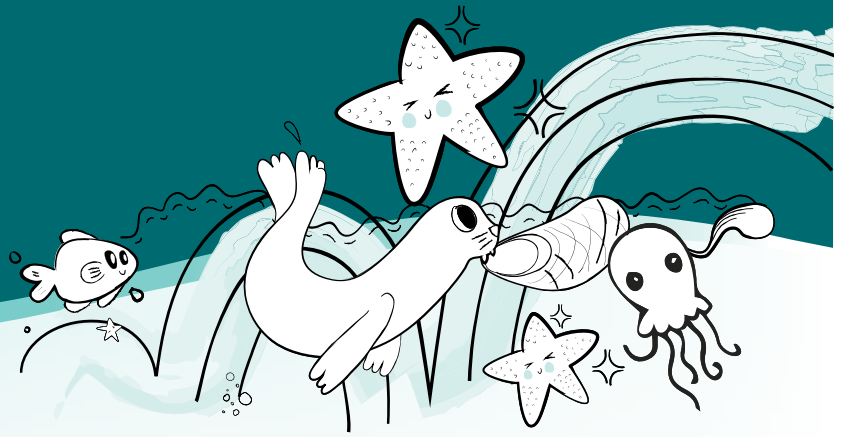


Guerilla Bay treasure hunt

Big Rock Bay

Activity sheet



Activity checklist:

- ✓ Activity sheets
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Sun protection – hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- ✓ Container or bag – to collect any plastic washed ashore

Guerilla Bay sits within a sanctuary zone of the Batemans Marine Park – providing a great opportunity to understand and enjoy this unique marine environment while helping conserve marine life now and for the future.

You can find Guerilla Bay's beach off Beach Parade and Bay Street.

The large rock outcrop gives the bay protection from wind and swell, perfect for beginner snorkelling.

Guerilla Bay also sits within the traditional Aboriginal country of the Yuin people, with boundaries stretching the length of NSW's south east coast and west to the Great Dividing Range. The local Yuin people are known as Walbanja.

Research on the name Guerilla Bay shows it has nothing to do with warfare or primates but more likely a simplified pronunciation and adapted spelling by white settlers of an Aboriginal word meaning 'big rock'.

An Aboriginal man from Tomakin told the late Professor C.P Fitzgerald the local name was "Guarella" meaning 'big rock or big stone' in the local language.

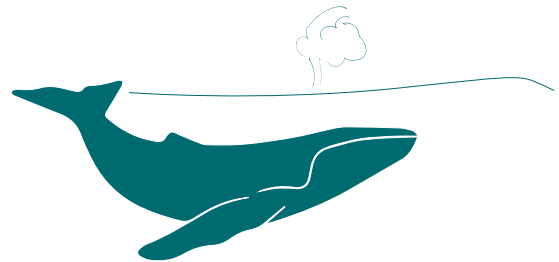
Gurabung means stone, and can be shortened to "guray" pronounced "goo ray ah".

Whale spotting at Guerilla Bay!

Whales can be spotted from Guerilla Bay and all along the Eurobodalla coastline between September and November, during their annual migration.

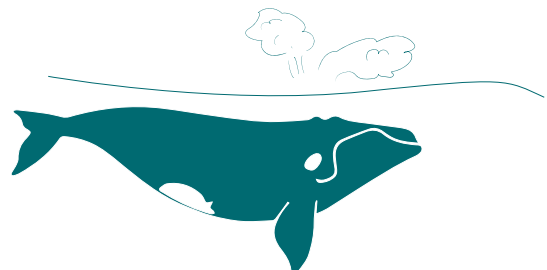
Humpback whales

Humpback whales have a prominent dorsal fin and are characterised by a 'hump' back.



Southern right whales

Southern right whales have no dorsal fin. They move slowly and close to shore.



While the coastal and marine environments are beautiful, they can be dangerous. Take care while walking and remind children to be wary of slippery rocks or broken glass. Make sure they know how to recognise venomous creatures like bluebottles and blue-ringed octopuses.

Spot it at low tide! (tick the checkbox)

2.

Neptune's necklace

The dense fronds of Neptune's necklace is made up of strings of hollow, water-filled beads. They provide a protective habitat for molluscs, worms and small crustaceans.

Although this distinctive algae may be exposed to the sun at low tide, it remains moist and protected under the dense mat of fronds. When you lift them up from the rock platform, some snails will retreat inside their shell and close their operculum.

Coraline algae

These algae all have calcium carbonate in their tissues which gives them a crunchy feel and makes them hard and white when dried.

Some have erect fronds like the one in this photo while other encrusting species look like pink paint on the rocks. Erect Coralline algae are a favoured food for adult abalone.

Sea shells

Operculum

The operculum is a hard protective 'door' that grows with the snail to ensure a snug fit with the shell.

Often they are found in Aboriginal middens – when the snail was cooked the operculum would open with the slug-like animal attached, easily removed and then eaten. There is evidence of an old disturbed midden site near the picnic table where you might see abalone and turban snail shells. **Please do not disturb the midden site.**

Limpets

Limpets cling tightly to the rocks, moving and grazing on tiny algae when the tide is high.

Mulberry whelks

These are carnivores and can drill holes in the shells of prey. First it releases an acid from a gland in its foot to soften the shell. Then it makes a hole with its rasp-like tongue, called a radula. The whelk then inserts its tube-like mouthpart into the prey and, with its radula, tears off the soft tissue.

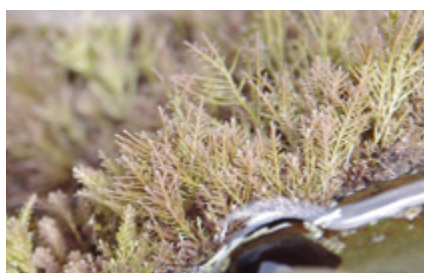
Zebra top

Zebra top shells feed by licking (rasping) microscopic plants from rocks with their tongues, which have a cartilage base and are covered with lots of tiny, backward-curving teeth. As the teeth wear out new ones grow forward from the back.

☐ Neptune's necklace



☐ Coraline algae



☐ Operculum



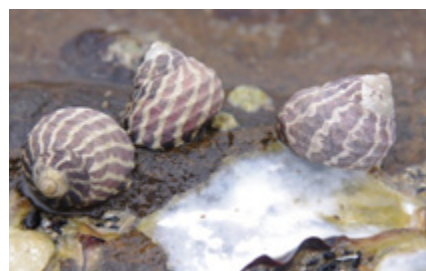
☐ Limpet



☐ Mulberry whelk



☐ Zebra top



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Spot it at low tide! (tick the checkbox)

3.

Warrigal greens (native spinach)

You can eat the smallest leaves of this plant but the larger leaves need to be cooked prior to eating. This was a regular food source for Aboriginal people and early white settlers.

Matt rush

Lomandra longifolia (matt rush) seeds were harvested, crushed and made into a damper by Aboriginal people. The seeds could also be stored for use out of season and the leaves were used for a variety of weavings.

Plants are an important part of the coastal ecosystem. They provide habitat, food and help reduce erosion.

Sooty oystercatchers

These plump, black birds have bright red bills. They forage along the shore and on rock platforms. They make a distinct, loud 'hueep' call in flight or when disturbed.

Oysters, limpets and mussels are a favourite food of sooty oystercatchers.

Quartz

On the beach you will find white quartz pebbles. This quartz was highly prized by the local Aboriginal people. Axes made from quartz were used in ceremony or given as gifts to other groups.

☐ Warrigal greens



☐ Matt rush



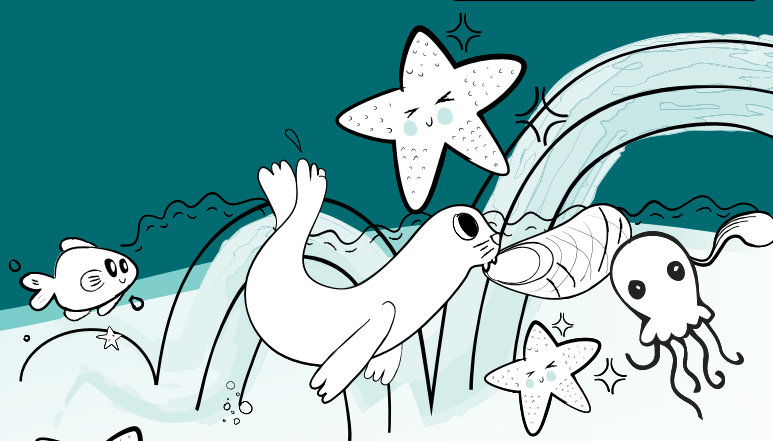
☐ Sooty oystercatcher



☐ There are so many interesting things to see, list your favourites:



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More information and how you can get involved

Visit Eurobodalla Council's marine debris webpage at www.esc.nsw.gov.au/environment/coast-and-waterways/marine-debris

Worried about illegal activity in the marine park?

If you see illegal activity in the marine park, contact Batemans Marine Park office on **1800 043 536** or log it on the NSW Fisheries website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/compliance/report-illegal-activity

How to be a citizen scientist

You can help save marine life by becoming a citizen scientist.

Discarded plastic or fishing tackle can injure or kill marine life – we need to learn more about litter so we can stop it at the source and that's where you can help.

It's easy to download Tangaroa Blue's Australian Marine Debris Initiative App from www.tangaroablue.org/amdi-app Through this app you can record types of litter you find.

This environmental treasure hunt was developed by Eurobodalla Council with assistance from Minga Aboriginal Cultural Services.

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