

# Barlings Beach treasure hunt



## Activity checklist:

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

Tomakin's Barlings Beach 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 Walbunja.

Barlings Beach also sits within the Batemans Marine Park and is classified as a general use zone – providing a great opportunity to improve public understanding and enjoyment of the unique marine environment while helping conserve marine life for present and future generations.

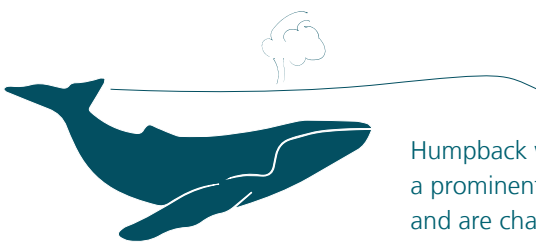
Extending from the north-east end of Barlings Beach is the small and rocky Barlings Island, which is accessible by foot at low tide.

This island has spiritual and cultural association for Aboriginal people and continues to be revered today for its connection with traditional laws and customs and as a practical place for collecting resources.

Barlings Beach and Island are named for Richard Henry Barling, a free overseer who formalised his conditional purchase of land in the area in 1852. That land is now the site of the Barlings Beach caravan park.

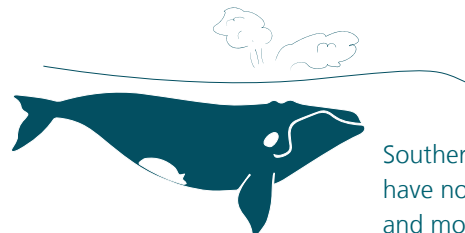
If you're visiting Barlings Beach between June and November be sure to keep your eye out to sea. You may be lucky enough to see passing humpback and southern right whales – they can sometimes come quite close to shore.

### 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 and move slowly 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.

At low tide, walk along the rock platform north of the beach connecting Barlings Island to the shore. Search the rock pools for the species below. Neptune's necklace and dead man's fingers are both types of seaweed. Limpets are a type of sea snail that stick to the rocks and eat algae. Mulberry whelk are a different type of sea snail. They are carnivorous, which means they eat other animals, including limpets. All kinds of whelks and limpets were a food staple for local Aboriginal people.

Neptune's necklace



Dead man's fingers



Mulberry whelk



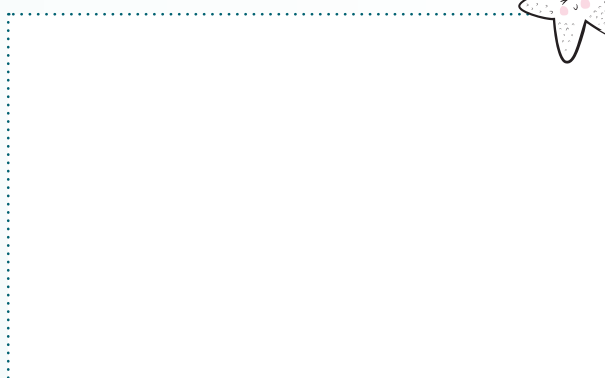
Limpet



Pied oystercatcher



Draw an oystercatcher



Can you see any chubby, mostly black birds with bright red bills? These are oystercatchers and there are two species; the all-black sooty oystercatcher and the black-and-white pied oystercatcher. They make a distinct, loud 'hueep' sound if they are disturbed or fly off. Their favourite foods are oysters, limpets and mussels and you will most likely see them foraging along the shoreline or on the rock platform.

## Spot it at low tide (continued)

3.

Head north at the base of the cliff – you can follow the defined concrete and rock path, which will lead you to a grey pebble beach. Look on the cliff walls. Can you see the bright orange lichen? You might find dead short-tailed shearwaters – also known as muttonbirds – washed up on the rocks. Usually the birds have died from exhaustion after flying an incredible 30,000 kilometres to our region from the Arctic in the northern hemisphere. Fortunately many muttonbirds do survive and build nests and lay eggs. Their eggs were harvested by Aboriginal people, but only one egg from each nest was taken to ensure ongoing food for future generations.

### Port Jackson shark egg



In amongst the seaweed you might find a Port Jackson shark egg case. These are leathery brown and corkscrew shaped, about 20 cms long. The spiral shape helps secure the egg in crevices on the rocky sea bottom.



### Waratah anemone (closed)



### Waratah anemone (open)



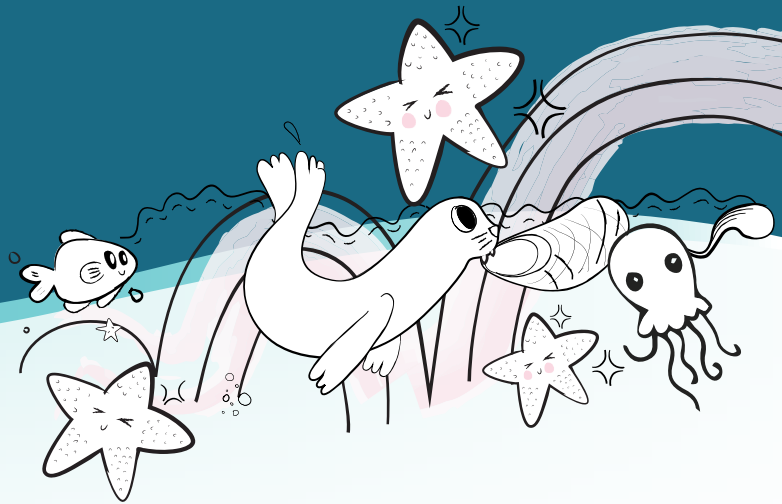
In the rock pools you might find Waratah anemone. When their tentacles and mouth are all drawn in, they look like blobs of jelly with a hole in the middle. Anemones must extend their tentacles to feed. They're not stuck in one place – they can glide – very very slowly – over the rock surfaces toward new food or to attack another anemone.


### White-bellied sea eagle



*White bellied sea eagles are in the area. Scientists describe them as opportunistic carnivores. As well as hunting fish, they will feed on turtles, seabirds, flying foxes and carrion. They will also harass smaller raptors like harriers and even seals to steal their prey.*

### ? What you think they would eat?

? There are so many interesting things to find. List or draw your favourites: 





### 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/resources/clean-up-data-collection/amdi-app](http://www.tangaroablue.org/resources/clean-up-data-collection/amdi-app) then record the type of any litter you find.

For more information or to get involved visit [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/living-in/environment/](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/living-in/environment/)

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](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/compliance/report-illegal-activity)

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