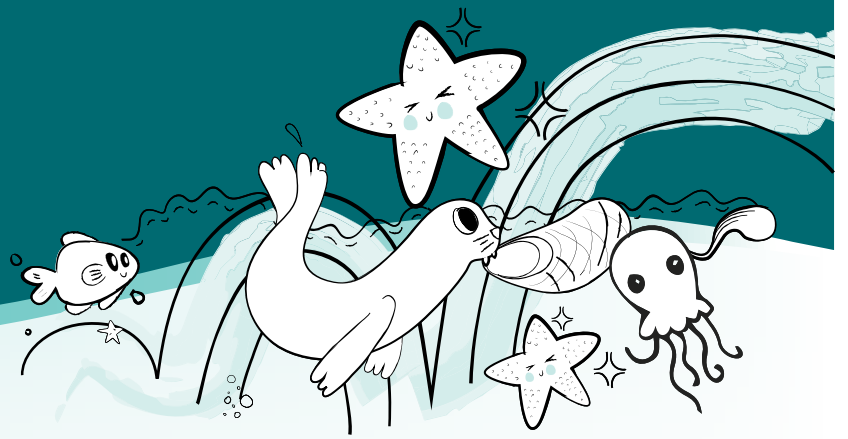


Long Beach treasure hunt



Activity checklist:

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

Long Beach sits within a Habitat Protection zone of the Batemans Marine Park.

Marine parks help conserve marine life now and for the future, while also giving us a great opportunities to further understand and enjoy our special marine environment.

Long Beach area also sits within the traditional Aboriginal country of the Yuin people whose boundaries stretch the length of NSW's south east coast and west to the Great Dividing Range. The local Yuin people are known as Walbanja.

Islands

From the beach, look across the bay to see Snapper Island; then further out to sea you can see the Tollgate Islands.

Tollgate Islands are key habitat for grey nurse sharks. Both the Tollgates and Snapper islands are breeding areas for the threatened sooty oystercatcher and the little penguin.

The curved bay at Long Beach has two different rock platforms to explore.

At the western end of the beach, below Square Head nature reserve, you will find cunjevoi and a variety of living shells and seaweeds amongst the jagged rocks.

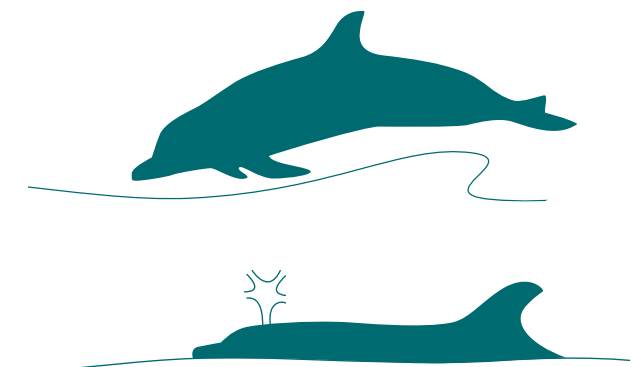
At the eastern end of the bay, the rock platform is low and flat. **Compare the two sites and see what you can find.**

A regular visitor to the waters off Long Beach is the common bottlenose dolphin (dhaawarri in the local Dhurga language). They are grey and measure between 2-4 meters. They live in groups called pods, where numbers can be up to 100 or more!

Bottlenose dolphin

Each dolphin has a different dorsal fin with a unique shape as well as scars it can be identified by.

Every bottlenose dolphin also has its own whistles.



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.

Birds

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.

White-bellied sea eagles

The white-bellied sea eagle has powerful talons, a hooked beak and a wingspan of up to 2 metres. This raptor is a skilled and deadly hunter.

These carnivores hunt fish, seabirds, flying foxes and feed on turtles as well as the dead flesh of animals they find. They will also harass smaller birds like harriers and even seals to steal their prey.

☐ Sooty oystercatcher



☐ Sea eagle



Sea shells

The shells you find on the beach used to be alive - they are the outer casings of living creatures. Look in the pools of the rock platforms for live shells.

Limpets

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

Mulberry whelks

These carnivores drill holes in 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 rasping tongue with teeth called a radula. The whelk then inserts its tube-like mouth into its prey and uses its radula to tear off soft tissue.

Many shells were part of the local Aboriginal peoples diet. They also used shells for decoration and wore them for important occasions. See if you can find some shells you would wear.

☐ Mulberry whelk



☐ Limpet



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Spot it at low tide! (tick the checkbox)

3.

Cunjevoi

This is a sea squirt found on the low-tide mark of rocks. During high tide, the cunjevoi feeds on plankton as water is pumped in and out of its siphons.

When cunjevoi is in its larve (tadpole-like) stage, it has chemical sensors to detect where the adult cunjevoi are. It swims around looking for a place on the rock to attach its two 'cement glands' on its head. Cunjevoi was also used a food source for Aboriginal people and as bait for fishing.

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 pictured below, while other encrusting species look like pink paint on the rocks.

Erect coralline algae are a favoured food for adult abalone.

Can you find a rock pool at the eastern rock platform that has seagrass as well as seaweed?

Pasidonia australis

This important seagrass supports our little penguins, green turtles, pipefish and seadragons by providing habitat, shelter and food.

See if you can spot this threatened seagrass.

Seaweed

Seaweed is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae that grow in the ocean. They provide more than 50% of the oxygen we breathe.

Two easy to identify species are dead mans fingers and Neptune's necklace.

Neptune's necklace

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

☐ Cunjevoi



☐ Coraline algae



☐ Pasidonia australis



☐ Neptune's necklace



☐ Dead mans fingers



 Draw some seaweed



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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 then record the type of any litter you find.

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

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