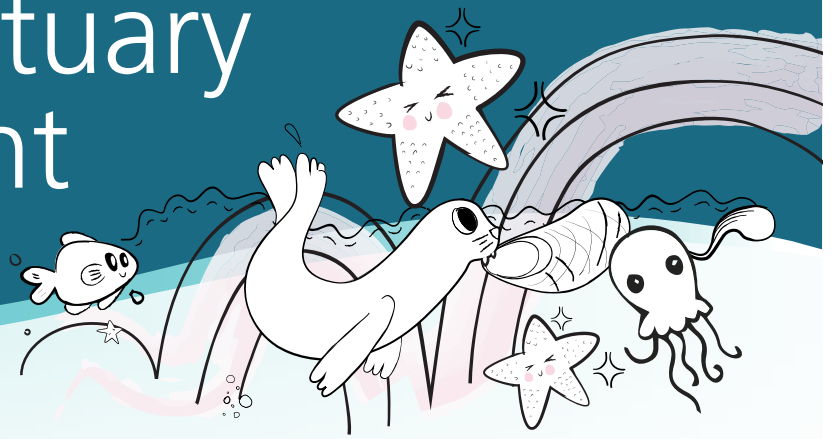


# Narooma estuary treasure hunt



## Activity checklist:

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

Wagonga Inlet lies within a Habitat Protection zone of the Batemans Marine Park. Marine parks help conserve our state's marine life for present and future generations, while providing a great opportunity to improve public understanding and enjoyment of our unique marine environment.

The Narooma estuary sits within the traditional Aboriginal country of the Yuin people, whose boundaries stretch the length of the NSW south coast and out west to the Great Dividing Range.

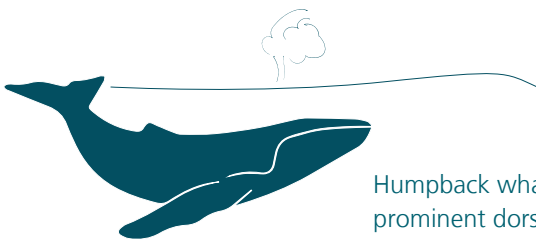
The local Yuin people are known as Djianingany. There is a long history of association between the local Aboriginal people and Narooma and

the Wagonga Inlet. This unique environment provided a number of natural resources through activities such as fishing and collecting shellfish. The abundant bird life offered an opportunity to collect eggs as well as use the birds themselves as a food source.

The construction of Narooma Bridge began in 1929 and the bridge officially opened in June 1931.

If you're visiting between June and October 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.

Semaphore crabs are equal-handed crabs – the adults have purple claws while the juveniles have light orange claws. They get their name from waving their claw in the air: this repels other males and entices females to the the male's burrow. On the estuary rock wall, sit still and quiet for a moment and you will likely be rewarded with a wave from a semaphore crab.

### Adult semaphore crab



### Draw a semaphore crab



### How many crabs can you see?



### Soldier crab



Soldier crabs form large armies on the sandy areas of estuaries. As they feed they leave many small round pellets of sand behind them. Soldier crabs are the only crabs that can walk straight ahead. When frightened, soldier crabs burrow into the sand in a corkscrew manner.

Pelicans are large birds. Their bill and large pouch are very sensitive and help them locate fish in murky water. Unfortunately the pouch is easily torn by fishing hooks and other tackle – so if you go fishing be sure you don't leave any tackle behind. The pelican, along with many other seabirds, features in several local Aboriginal Dreamtime stories and cultural beliefs.

### Australian pelican



### Can you draw a pelican's beak?



## Spot it at low tide (continued)

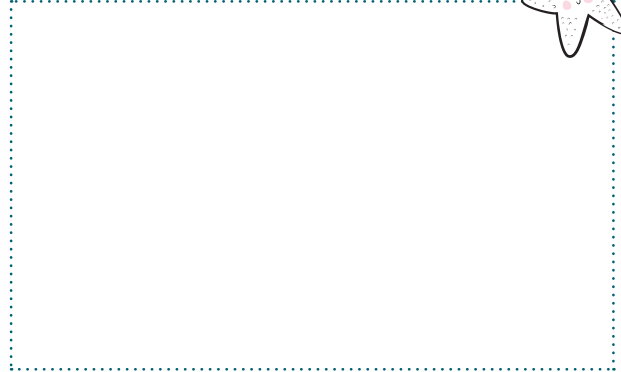
3.

Pied oystercatchers have a scattered distribution across Australia. They prefer sandy beaches and sandy-shored estuaries like Wagonga. They make a distinct loud 'hueep' sound if they are disturbed or fly off. Their favourite foods are oysters, limpets and mussels.

### Pied oystercatcher

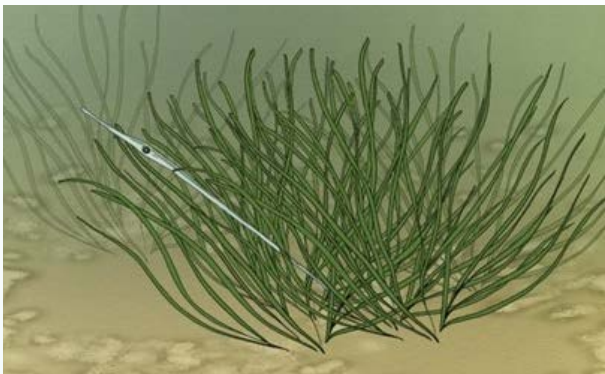


### Draw an oystercatcher



Seagrasses are the only flowering plants that can live underwater. Just 400 square metres of seagrass can support up to 2,000 tonnes of fish for a year. Seagrasses are valuable as nurseries, shelters and feeding areas for many different animals including fish, crabs and prawns. From the jetty, look out over the estuary to see the seagrass.

### Pipe fish hiding in seagrass





### Mud whelk



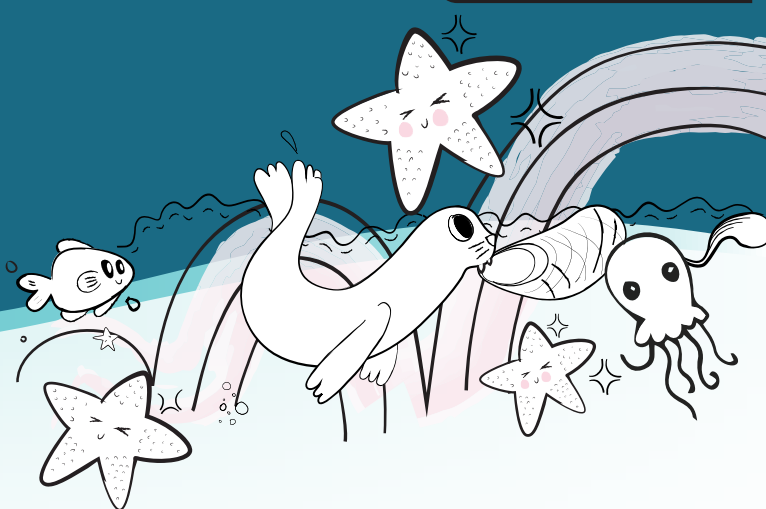
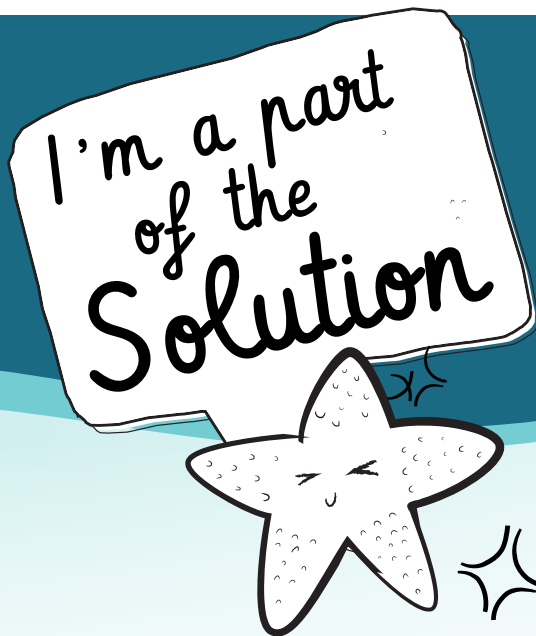
Mud whelks eat algae and small particles of dead plants and animals. They gather up mud as they crawl over the estuary and digest their food from it, with unwanted mud and sediment passed through. Mud whelks are food for birds, octopuses and stingrays. All shellfish were a regular part of the diet of local Aboriginal people. As you walk along the jetty you will see many different seaweeds, fish and stingrays.

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 Aboriginal people hunted and ate stingray; they used the serrated barbs from the stingray's tail as points on their fishing spears. Take time to look under the jetty. Can you see one? Lie on your belly and list what you can find.

 At the jetty find the sign 'the lure of Narooma'. Who was the fisherman from Burreadoo?

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



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## 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.