

# Shelly Beach treasure hunt



## Activity checklist:

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

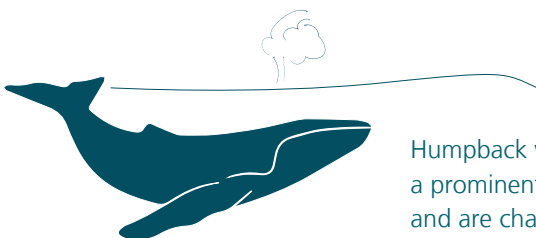
Shelly Beach sits within a general use zone of the Batemans Marine Park. Marine parks help conserve our state's marine life for present and future generations, while providing a great opportunity to improve public understanding and enjoyment of our unique marine environment.

Shelly Beach is part of the traditional Aboriginal country of the Yuin people, whose boundaries stretch the length of the NSW south east coast and west to the Great Dividing Range. The local

Yuin are known as Brinja- Yuin. For thousands of years Shelly Beach was a regular gathering place for traditional Aboriginal custodians. Aboriginal people gathered on this sheltered beach for many centuries before settlers came. Evidence from protected middens reveals countless meals shared here.

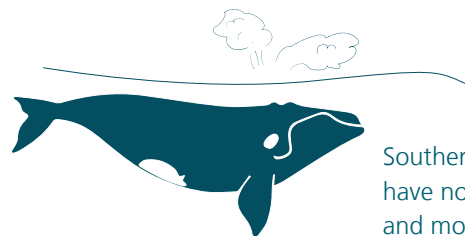
If your visit is between June and October, you might be lucky enough to see passing humpback and southern right whales. Check the horizon for breath signs.

### 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)

At low tide take a walk along the beach and see if you can find these local species on the beach and on the rock platform. See how many types of seaweed you can find: Bubble kelp, Neptune's necklace, Sargassum and Cystophora.

### Bubble kelp



### Neptune's necklace



### Sargassum



### Cystophora



Seaweeds are vitally important habitats for countless numbers of fish, snails, and other animals. Many seaweeds are eaten by herbivores (plant eaters) like abalone, turban snails and sea urchins. Even when decaying on the beach seaweeds feed many animals from tiny microscopic critters to beach sand-hoppers and crabs.

### Can you find a sand hopper?



### Pied 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)



Draw some seaweed you find



Large dotted-line box for drawing seaweed.

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

Limpets cling tightly to the rocks, moving and grazing on tiny algae when the tide is high. Mulberry whelks are carnivores; they 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 victim and, with its radula, tears off the soft tissue of its prey.



Mulberry whelk



Limpet



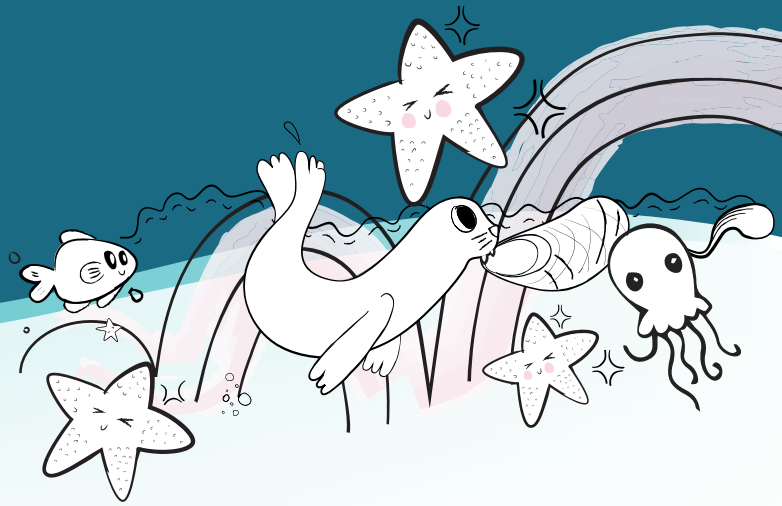
White-bellied sea eagle



List what you think they would eat

Four horizontal dotted-line boxes for listing prey items.

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.



? 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.