

grade
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Litter and water

This is a resource developed by Bellarine Catchment Network. Learn about our local waterways and why we need to protect them from litter and pollution.

For more information, email info@bcn.org.au



Litter and water

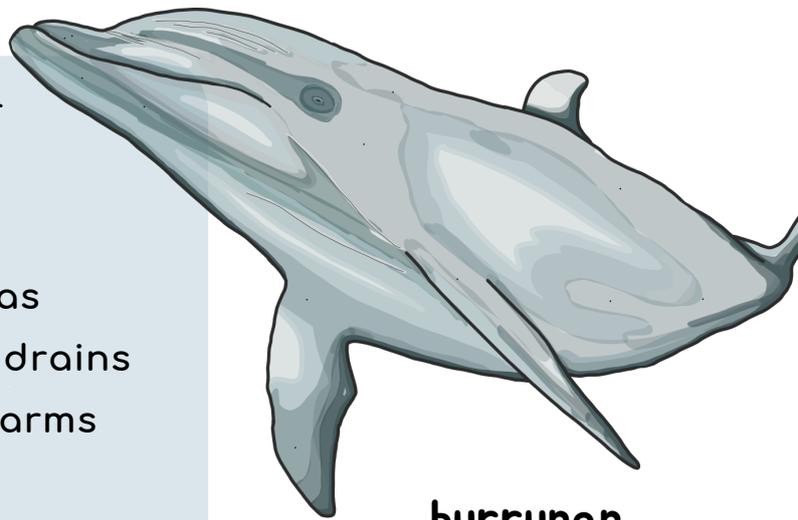
grade
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Almost all life on earth relies on water, whether it be from our oceans, our rivers, our lakes, our rain or our catchments. Our local waterways are very important to many plants, birds, frogs, reptiles, insects and fish and need to be clean and healthy. Waterways begin in the mountains, flowing down into rivers and lakes and exiting land through estuaries. Water also enters our bays and oceans through storm water drains. Whenever there is heavy rain, all the chemicals, pollutants and litter on our driveways and roads flow down into storm water drains and into our bays and oceans. Once this happens, our marine wildlife can become entangled or mistake it for food and can cause them injury. Fertilisers and other chemicals in our waterways can cause algal blooms which can impact the health of local plants and animals.

We all share a responsibility when it comes to protecting our waterways. What we do around our homes, streets and out and about can impact our bays and oceans.

Some key actions to help keep our waterways clean:

1. Remove litter from natural areas
2. Wash cars on lawns away from drains
3. Use slow release fertilisers at farms
4. Install litter traps on drains
5. Pick up after your dog and bin it
6. Try not to use single use plastics
7. Sweep out gutters and driveways
8. Compost dead leaves
9. Use native plants
10. Don't pour chemicals down the drain

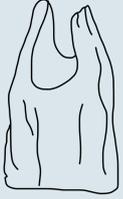


**burrunan
dolphin**

Litter lifetimes

In the dark blue boxes provided, take a guess at how many weeks, months or years it takes for these different items to break down. Then check the answer sheet to see how close you were.

plastic bag



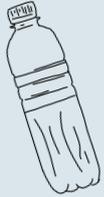
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aluminium can



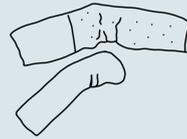
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plastic bottle



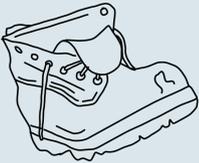
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cigarette butt



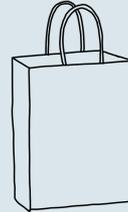
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leather



.....

paper bag



.....

cotton



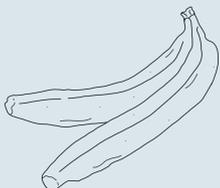
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balloon



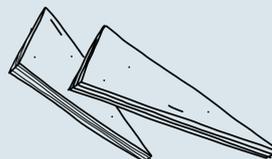
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banana



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plywood



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Pollutant journey

Think about where litter, waste and pollutants enter our waterways. Draw an arrow between each part of the water cycle to show the way that pollutants would move. [Hint: click here](#)

In the circle, list some ways that we can stop pollutants entering our waterways (e.g. no dumping, picking up dog poo).



mountains



river



farm



beach/bay



stormwater

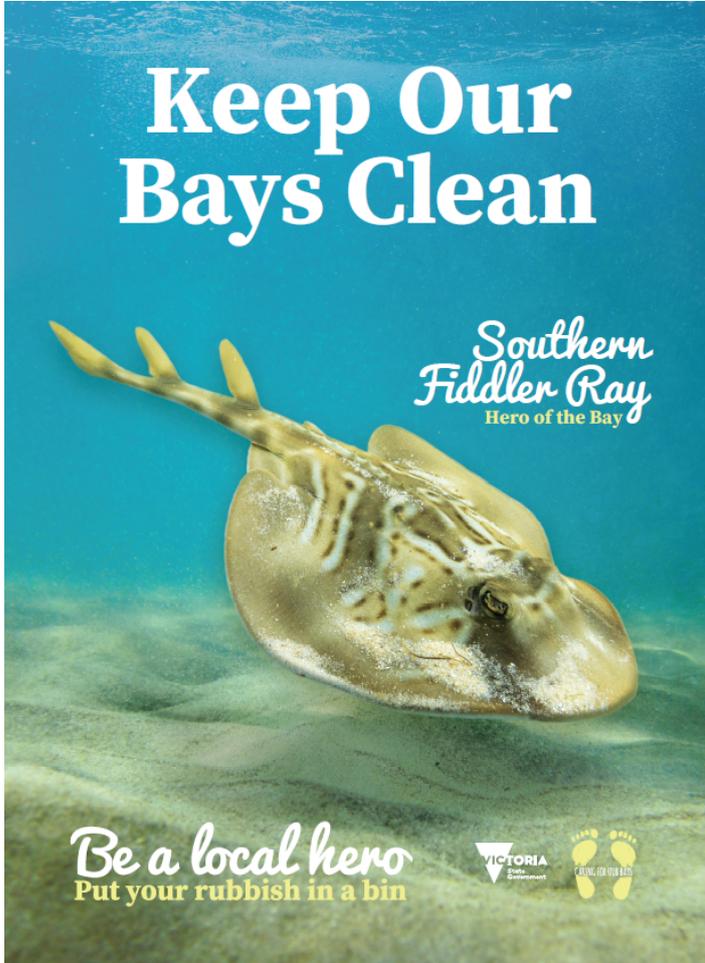


towns and houses



Heroes of the bay

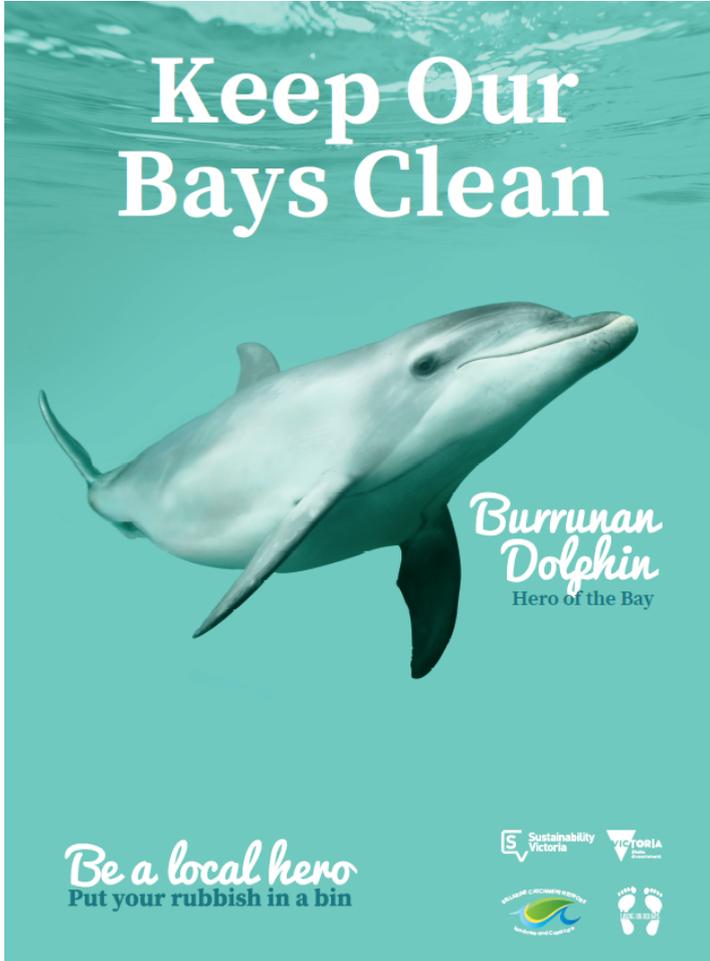
Choose one of the local heroes from the following pages. In the boxes provided, write a small story about why they are special, how they might be harmed by litter in the bay and what we can do to help.



Write your story below

Heroes of the bay

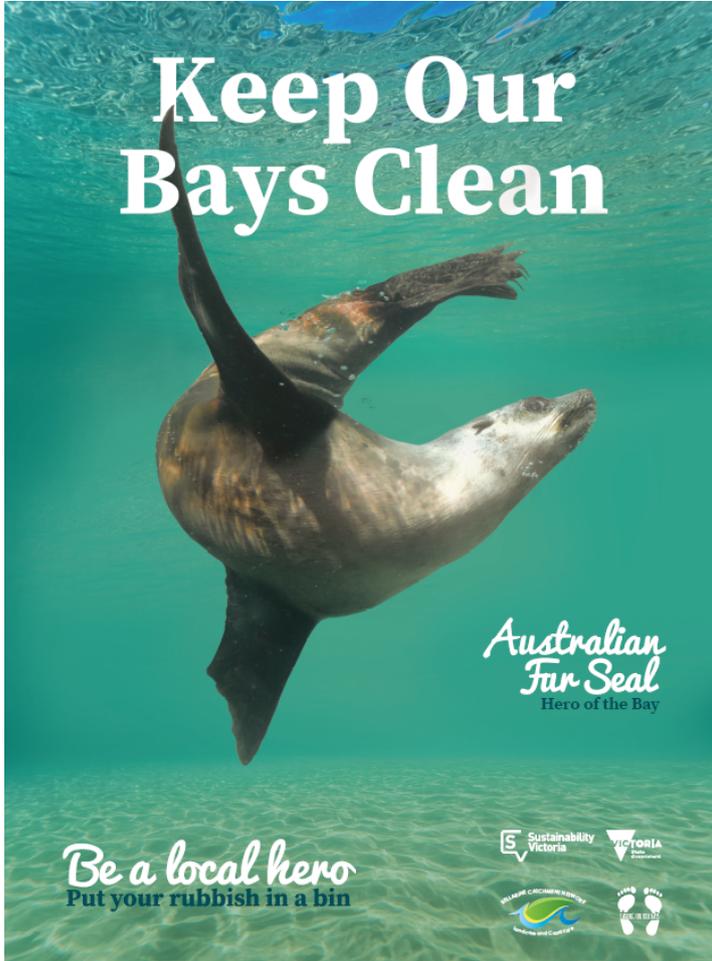
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Keep Our Bays Clean

Australasian Gannet
Hero of the Bay

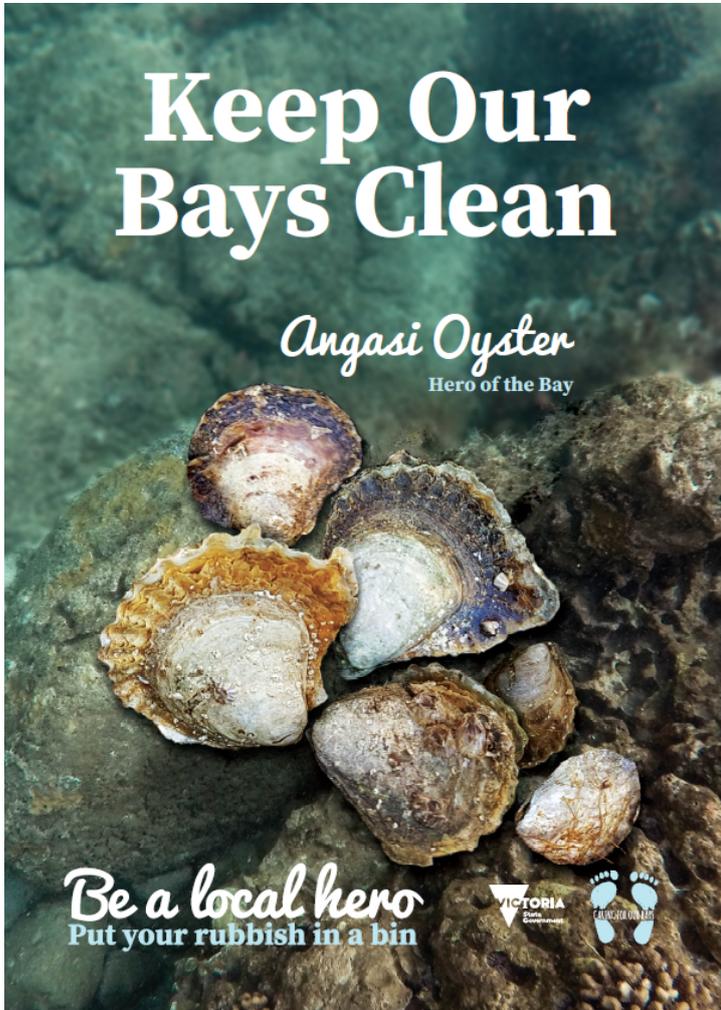
Be a local hero
Put your rubbish in a bin

Sustainability Victoria
VICTORIA
WILSON PROMENADE
LIVING GREEN
TERRACE

Write your story below

Heroes of the bay

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Write your story below

Keep Victoria Beautiful

There are many ways that we can Keep Victoria Beautiful. Cut out the actions below and choose which box they should go in. Glue them in and then compare your answers with ours.



pick up after dogs

pick up beach litter

**dump chemicals
down the drain**

**wash cars on
grass**

drop cigarettes

compost dead leaves

**go to the toilet in
the ocean**

**take your
rubbish home**

**use slow release
fertilisers**

things we should do

things we should NOT do

Evaluation

What activity was your favourite?

How do pollutants get into our bays and oceans?

What animals might be affected by litter?

list 3 types of litter and how long it takes them to breakdown

Name

Teacher

Grade

Date