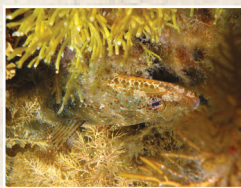




**3 Biscuit Seastar**

These seastars look like they have been cut out with a cookie cutter. They can grow up to 5cm and live in rocky shores and rocks. They can be found in shallow water and up to depths of 40m around Victoria, NSW and Tasmania. They eat algae and sea squirts.

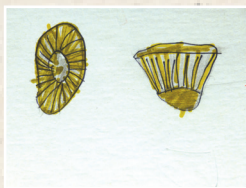
By Jed



**6 Flathead**

There are 5 hot spots to finding Flathead, they are: Port Phillip Bay, Western Port Bay, Port Albert, Gippsland Lakes and Mallacoota. Flathead are very common throughout Victoria and you will have a very good chance of catching one at most piers and jetties. Many people around Australia love to eat flathead - yum. Flathead can grow up to 37cm long. Sand flathead have scales and a tough surrounding on their head to protect them from predators. The scientific name for a flathead is *Platycephalidae*. 'Platy' means flat like a plate and 'ceph' means head - flat head!

By Amy



**9 Limpets**

Limpets are sticky and they stick to your hand and your face because they have a very strong foot. They stick to rocks underwater and out of the water. They can live out of water at low tide. They eat seaweed and carnivorous snails eat them. When you are looking in rock pools, leave limpets where they are.

By Brodie



**2 Australian Fur Seal**

Australian fur seals have fur instead of blubber so they are warm in cold waters. You can see seals in Port Phillip Bay at the new Chinaman's hat (the caisson) that was built specially for the seals, so they could laze around there. They also like to laze around on rocky shores and beaches. Seals are really strong swimmers; they are brown and have teeth and whiskers. These seals are quite large. They dive to deep depths to find cuttlefish, fish, squid and octopus to eat.

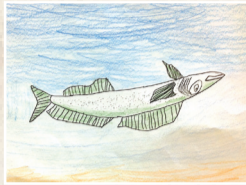
By Vanessa



**5 Decorator Crab**

This crab is quite small, they can grow up to 4cm long. You can find them on rocky shores around Victoria, Western Australia, NSW, South Australia and Tasmania. Its nickname is the seaweed crab because it decorates itself with seaweed for camouflage.

By Brady



**8 King George Whiting**

You can go fishing for King George whiting and the size limit is 27cm. They like to eat Mussels, Pips, Squid, Cuttlefish, Octopus, Bass Yabbies, Prawns, Marine Worms and cut Pilehead filets. The King George whiting's scientific name is *Sillaginodes punctata*. Punctata means dots. The whiting has dots on the top half of its body. King George whiting are generally found in or around sand holes, near grass beds, on the tops of banks at or near high tide. King George whiting babies live in shallow and calm waters like Swan Bay.

By Kaleb



**1 Amphipods**

Amphipods are a crustacean, that means they have exoskeletons. They live on the shore in sand and seaweed where it is moist and they can sometimes be found in your garden under pots and rotting plant matter. Amphipods usually sit in a C position with their legs facing into the middle of the C and they flip their tail to propel themselves away from predators.

By Jamie



**4 Blue Ring Octopus**

They are found around the beaches and rockpools of Australia. It is the most deadly creature in Queensland. You need to watch where you put your fingers when you are exploring in the rockpools. It can bite and is very poisonous and can kill you. The name octopus comes from the word Octopod which means eight-footed. They can grow up to 12cm so they are a small octopus.

By Sol



**7 Hermit Crab**

The hermit crab moves into a new shell when they are too big for their old one. They are an amazing red colour and are scavengers so they usually eat dead animals. Please leave shells on the beach because they could be a home to another hermit crab. Hermit crabs can live up to 22 years.

By Sandra

## Help us protect the animals by:

- Cleaning up after yourself
- Keeping your dog on a lead and use poo bags
- Stick to the paths
- Stay off the dunes
- Collect only empty shells and don't take too many
- Watch where you step
- Don't feed the birds

Made by students of Queenscliff Primary School 2012  
Thank you to Alex, Jess, Mrs Cowburn, Mrs Hansen,  
Ms Hoskin and Hannah  
for helping us to make the movie and brochure.

### Acknowledgements

Perry Davis for the photos of the blue ring octopus,  
Jennifer Hoskin for photos of the seahorse,  
weedy sea dragon, bango ray, red bait crab,  
decorator crab, flathead  
and Bird life Australia  
for the photos of the hooded plover.

You can find more information  
about our school and our environment at  
<http://queenscliffps.global2.vic.edu.au/>



# 24 Queenscliff Critters



A guide to the creatures of  
Queenscliff's beaches and bays  
by the students of  
Queenscliff Primary School

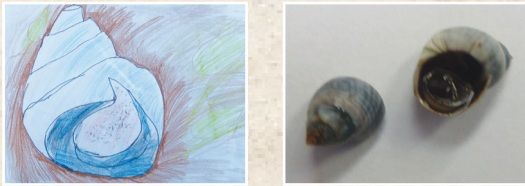


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## 10 Periwinkles

Periwinkles are small, like a child's fingernail. They can be brown or blue. The ones we find in the rockpools here at Queenscliff are blue and their scientific name is *Nodilittorina unifasciata*. Periwinkles can travel up to twelve metres in search of food, they eat algae. In Europe, some people eat periwinkles.  
By Phoebe



## 16 Shore Crab

Shore crabs are found on the beach under rocks and in rock pools. They are scavengers so they eat other dead creatures. They are brown and the size of a fifty cent piece. They have eight legs and two claws.  
By Rachael



## 22 The Hooded Plover

The Hooded plover is endangered. They can be found on the dunes of the beaches. They are hunted by foxes and dogs. It is a medium sized bird, its back is a sandy colour and has a black face and white tummy. The Hooded plover's diet includes small insects, sandhoppers (amphipods) and soldier crabs. Hooded Plovers are usually found in pairs or small groups and can live for up to 17 years.  
By Lola



## 11 Red Bait Crab

The red bait crab is a favourite bait of rock fishers. The red bait crab is distinctive because of its dark red to deep red brown colour. Octopus love to eat red bait crabs and the crab hides under rock ledges, in crevices and algae in rock pools.  
By Kira



## 17 Southern Rock Lobster

Rock lobsters live and hide in small rock caves. They eat pipis which they pry open with their sharp legs, they also eat other small molluscs. They live all along the Great Ocean Road, around Tasmania, the bottom half of Western Australia, along the Victorian coastline. Their predators are octopus, gummy sharks and fish. During mating the male will transfer a small packet of sperm to the female where it sticks to the back legs of the female. Their scientific name is *Jasus edwardsii*  
By Brendan



## 23 Tube Worms

Tube worms are found from Southern Queensland around southern shores all the way to Western Australia. Their scientific name is *Galeolaria* and they are white and grey. The calcareous (like snail shells) tubes built by this worm are up to 3 cm in length. The tubes are often found by themselves or in clumps of many worms. At low tide, the worm hides away in the tube and is impossible to see unless the covering tube is broken open.  
By Aidan



## 12 Sea Anemone

When you touch them, they can sting you. They eat plankton, small fish and small crabs. There's nearly 1000 species of anemones around the world. They are home to clown fish in warm water like in Queensland. They can live for 60 to 80 or more years.  
By Sam



## 18 Spiny Globe Fish

Spiny globe fish protect themselves by puffing up like a ball. They can puff up with water or air. Their spikes are not poisonous, but if you eat them they are poisonous. They are found in shallow waters around Queenscliff. They are usually slow at swimming. Their scientific name is *Diodon nichthemus*  
By Rosie



## 24 Weedy Sea Dragon

People come down to southern Australia from all parts of the world just to see the Weedy sea dragon's beautiful colours. They are found nowhere else in the world. Weedy sea dragons have small leaf-like appendages that provide camouflage and they have short spines for protection. They are carnivorous animals. They don't have teeth and they use their strong suction to suck up and larval fish and sea lice. Weedy Sea dragon's range from 35-45cm in length which is around the size of my arm. Weedy Sea dragons swim differently to fish. Fish use their fins, but weedy sea dragons tend to just float around the sea and use their camouflage.  
By Jordyn



## 13 Sea Sponge

Sea Sponges are not coral and are not plants. They are animals but do not have a brain. Sea sponges live on the ocean floor and are brightly coloured when they are alive. We usually just see the brown skeleton that washes up on the beach after the sponge has died. Sea sponges eat plankton. They suck up food through the holes in their bodies.  
By Brad'lee



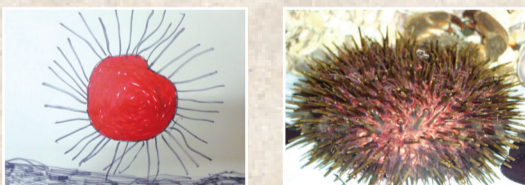
## 19 The Elephant Snail

The elephant snail is common in rockpools and crevices at low tide under rocks and boulders. An elephant snail is very slimy. It is a mollusc and it has a big shell. It has one foot that is big compared to its shell. The elephant snail's shell can get up to 125 mm long. That is about the size of a small hand.  
By Darcy



## 14 Sea Urchin

Sea urchins are covered in spikes, they have spikes in and out of the water. Their spikes can grow up to 3cm long. You can see them on the beach in the rock pools. Sea urchins have tube feet that they use to stick onto rocks. They eat seaweed off the rocks using their five teeth.  
By Jameison



## 20 The Fiddler Ray

Fiddler rays are known by many names and are commonly called Guitarfish, Round skate, Banjo shark or the Thornback ray. Their diet is shelled invertebrates like crabs and worms so they are carnivores. Fiddler rays can grow up to 1.2m (6 feet) and some people catch them to eat their tails.  
By Elizabeth



## 15 Seahorse

Seahorses can rotate their eyes 360° so they can see all around them. Seahorses have no teeth and no stomach. They have a straw-like mouth to suck up their food. They love to eat amphipods. Did you know that in the seahorse's family the males give birth, not the females? Most seahorses use camouflage to blend in with their surroundings. The scientific name for the seahorse is *Hippocampus*. *Hippocampus* comes from the word 'hippos' meaning horse and 'kamos' meaning sea monster.  
By Bailey



## 21 The Giant Cuttle

Giant cuttles can change colour and are great at camouflage. We usually only see their white 'bone' washed up on the beach after the animal has died. You can eat them and make sauce out of their ink, they weigh up to 3 kilograms. They have eight tentacles including their feeding tentacles.  
By Thomas



### KEY

#### Where can you find these critters?

- On the beach
- In the rockpools
- In shallow water
- In deep water