

# Seaweek 1990

## Turn the Tide

Don Alcock

### Understanding the theme

It's time to turn the tide on marine and coastal pollution. Images of events such as massive oils spills, mountains of rubbish collected at 'clean up Australia' campaigns and plastic strangled seals, provide reminders of our need to take steps in protecting our coasts and oceans from human pollution. For too long we have used the ocean as a bottomless provider and endless tip. The oceans are a complex living environment which face several major threats, pollution is high up on this list.

To take action towards turning the tide on marine pollution, we need to consider why a clean and healthy ocean is important, what the pollution is and how we can work towards the sustainable management of our seas. With the theme of marine pollution we can explore the issues of:

- Stormwater and wastewater
- Marine debris and litter
- Sewage ocean outfalls
- Dredging
- Ocean dumping
- Oil spills
- Ballast water
- Boating
- Catchment management



Logo Source - GBRMPA

### Exploring the theme - event ideas

**Seaweek Ambassador** - A seaweek celebrity for school visits

#### What

School visits to introduce and explore the Seaweek theme by staff at Phillip Island Nature Park and their chosen ambassador, a local professional surfer.

#### Where

Phillip Island and Sanremo Primary Schools

#### How

School visits were part of a busy programme for Seaweek, organised by the staff at Phillip Island Nature Park. Other activities included a beach day community festival, marine life seminar, school poster competition and surf for the sea, surfing competition.

#### Why

School visits were organised to encourage involvement in Seaweek and to promote understanding of marine issues. By taking the message to the schools, marine education can be easily and effectively introduced into the classroom, for students and teachers.

A local surfer was chosen as a Seaweek Ambassador, his reputation with the community gave instant credibility. Glyndon's involvement was a fantastic role model and mentor for many of these students. He represented the communities interest and connection to the sea through surfing. His experience and enthusiasm helped the students to develop an awareness of the sea as an important environment, to be respected and conserved.

Local surfers can be contacted through Surfrider Foundation.



Surfrider Foundation  
Litter • Action • Beach • Education

### Extending the theme - classroom activities

#### Activity 1: People Problems

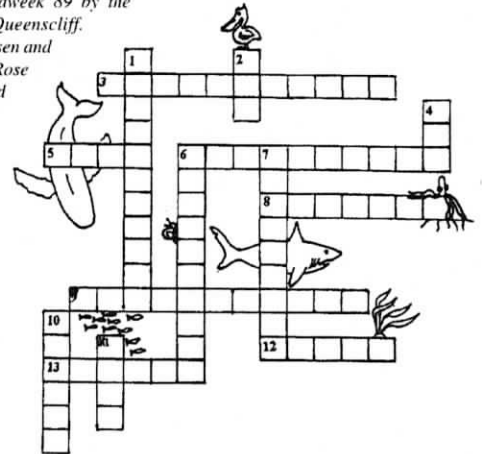
##### Aim

- to understand how human activities can affect an ecosystem.

##### What to do

- Students think of examples of the ways in which the sea is used as a rubbish dump (marine pollution issues) eg sewage, industrial waste, drains etc. Discuss the effects of these activities on the animals and plants living there.
- Students choose a marine pollution issue and imagine that they are an animal living in the affected ecosystem. Ask them to think of the problems they would encounter. How would they overcome them? Would they survive?
- Explore these issues further by writing a story about their adventures or by designing a poster to save their ecosystem from destruction by humans.

*This educational activity is adapted from the Marine Life Resources Kit of Seaweek 89 by the Marine Studies Centre, Queenscliff. Cross word by Barbara Jensen and Louise Stewart. Dolphin by Rose Bedford Courtesy Sea World*



#### Activity 2:

##### Across

- Turtles often mistake these for sea jellies.
- Wash your car here instead of the driveway.
- Excessive amounts of this may cause blue green algal blooms.
- The term for the deliberate disposal of pollution
- Dolphins can get entangled in these.
- What can you do instead of hosing the driveway?
- Rubbish dropped in the streets gets into the sea via these.

##### Down

- No marine pollution means \_\_\_\_\_ & healthy \_\_\_\_\_.
- This pollution prevents birds from flying.
- Can you help to keep the oceans clean and healthy?
- Avoid using these on your garden pests.
- This can smother seagrass beds.
- Adopt the three R's \_\_\_\_\_, reuse and recycle.
- Most of the pollution in the oceans originates from the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Personal actions

Take steps in protecting our coasts and oceans:

- Act locally and get involved in a Coastcare group. Assist in a local projects to protect, monitor or rehabilitate the coastal and marine environments.
- Make sure all your rubbish goes into bins for correct disposal or recycling, at home, at the beach and while boating.
- Know all the beach, boating and fishing regulations.
- Keep street drains clean, all the water washes to the beach taking with it rubbish, chemicals, plant clippings, dirt and oil.

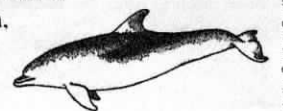


Illustration Courtesy: Sea World