

# WILD FAMILIES



Loving, learning about and looking after nature in Victoria

## WILD FUN: ROCKPOOL RAMBLING ROCKS!

### What is a rockpool?

Rockpools are mini marine worlds filled with seawater and teeming with marine life.

Rockpools can be found on rocky coastal areas between high and low tide. There are rockpool habitats at hundreds of locations along Victorian beaches. They are sometimes completely covered by the sea and sometimes completely exposed.

### Rockpool rambling

Rockpool rambling involves clambering, searching, sometimes even snorkelling to discover hidden treasures.

Use these 10 simple tips for an exciting rockpool ramble:

1. Do some research on great rockpooling spots. If you come across rocky sections on the beach, take a closer look.
2. Check the tides at <https://tides.willyweather.com.au/> It is usually easiest to rockpool ramble when the tide is out.
3. Try our rockpool rambling spotto game on page 3 and see what you can find.
4. Look closely, carefully and keep still. If you keep still you will get your eye in and creatures may crawl or swim out from hiding places in the pool.
5. Look all the way from the sea's edge to the furthest inland rocks. Are the creatures found in close to the sea's edge the same as those further inland?
6. Use a book or app. to see if you can figure out what all the marine creatures are, e.g. the Museum Victoria Field Guide to Victorian Fauna app.
7. Make a plan together to stay safe and always supervise children around water.
8. Always watch for incoming waves and tides.
9. Always keep your hands where you can see them as many creatures are hiding amongst algae and in rock crevices and some creatures can sting, nip or bite including Blue-ringed Octopus.
10. Follow the guidelines on page 4 to take care of the rockpools and the creatures that live in them.



Rockpooling family fun

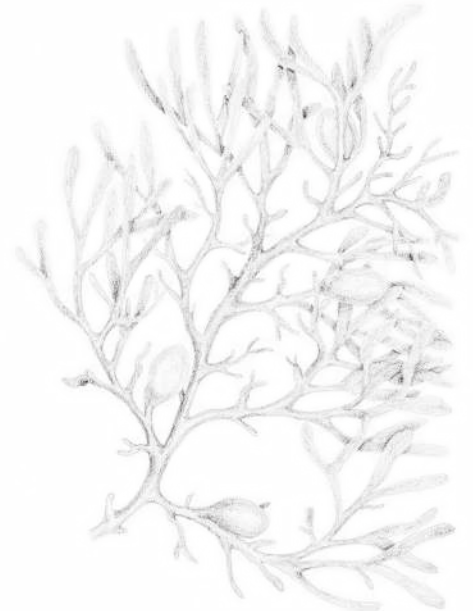
Photo by Nicole Mertens



# WILD SPOT

Discovering marine life at Ricketts Point

Photo by Marine Care Ricketts Point



## RICKETTS POINT MARINE SANCTUARY

Found in Port Phillip Bay off the coast of Beaumaris, Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary is an underwater gem found close to the big city.

Through its sloping sandstone cliffs and rocky appearance, it creates a home for a variety of underwater marine life including seagrasses, brittle stars and crabs whilst the deeper water attracts snapper and larger rays.

Popular activities include:

- **Rockpool rambling** - make sure you look in the rock pools to find a variety of snails, crabs, brittle stars and sandhoppers.
- **Beachcombing** - searching along the seaweed line to find treasures washed ashore like shark eggs, sponges and interesting shells.
- **Snorkelling** - watching marine life such as sea stars, zebrafish, globe fish and the Port Jackson Shark.

- **Birdwatching** - the low tide attracts many varieties of sea birds to roost on exposed in rockpools and along the shoreline. Some species include Pelicans and Little Pied Cormorants.
- **Create your own artwork** on paper or in the sand.
- **Beach play** - enjoy the sea and the sand.

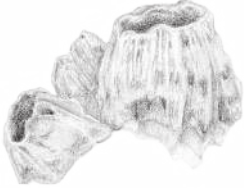








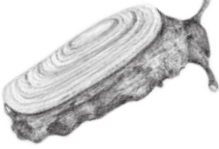


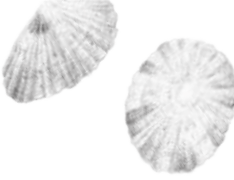
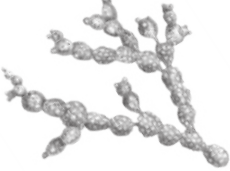



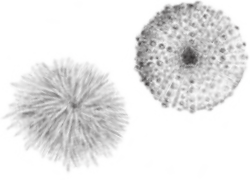
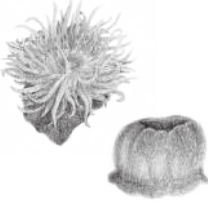

Be sure to follow the rules of the marine sanctuary - no collecting animals, shells or treasures. The only thing you can take with you is any rubbish you find, photos and memories of your adventures.



## WILD FAMILIES

# WILD ACTIVITY: Rockpool Rambling Spotto

To play Rockpool Rambling Spotto simply take this sheet down to the rockpools and tick off each of these marine creatures or algae when you see them. How many can you spot? Use the blank squares to sketch anything else you find.

				
Barnacle	Fish	Mussel	Green algae	Chiton
				
Coralline algae	Brown algae	Decorator crab	Seagrass	Elephant snail
				
Sea slug	Glass shrimp	Limpet	Neptunes necklace	Rockpool sea star
				
Shore crab	Sea snail	Urchin	Anemone	Whelk
Your own drawing	Something else you found	.....	.....	.....

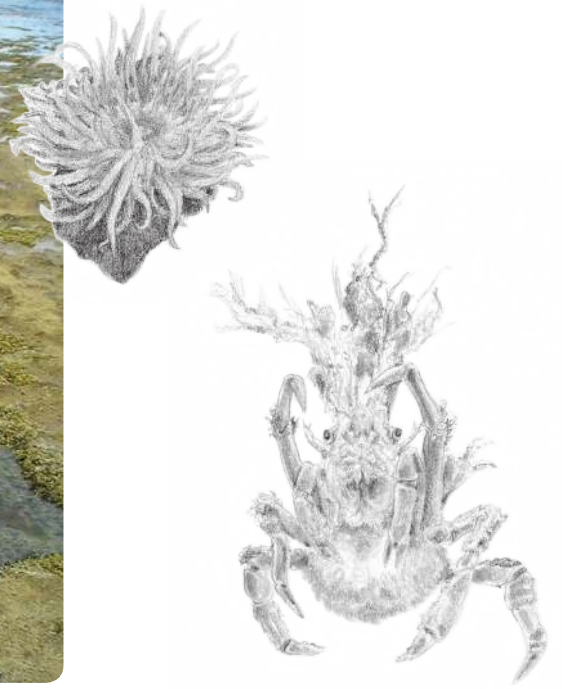
All artwork by Nicole Mertens





At peace by the rockpools

Photo by Russell Bowey



## CARING FOR ROCKPOOLS

Caring for rockpools on a rockpool ramble is easy. Follow these easy tips and you'll be caring for the marine life, allowing others to make marine discoveries and looking after your own safety.

1. Look at and admire the wildlife you find, but don't pick them up. Being handled is stressful for the animals and could result in a nip or bite.
2. If you turn over any rocks, put them back very gently to ensure you put their home back and avoid crushing any creatures
3. Watch where you are walking so you don't stand on wildlife

## WILD CREATURE FACTS

### Eleven armed seastars

- They are one of the largest seastars found in Victoria and can be up to 50cm across.
- They can be found in rockpools, rocky reefs and in sandy open areas.
- They are classified as an invertebrate, an animal without a backbone.
- They usually have eleven arms and they can be all different lengths. This is because they may be growing back damaged or lost arms.
- Individuals can split into two and then grow into two separate seastars (but never break a seastar on purpose).
- Under each arm and encircling the animals mouth are rows of flexible tube feet, like tiny stretchy suction cups, which are powered by a water-vascular system (pumping water into these tube feet to stretch them out, and releasing water to contract them) allowing them to move, and to prise open their favourite food like mussels.



How many arms do I have?

Photo by David Reinhard

- Seastars have their mouth on their underside and can eat their food by ejecting their stomachs outside their mouth before ingesting their prey. They eat sea snails, smaller sea stars and sea urchins.