

8. A place for recreation—The Bay provides opportunity for many recreational activities including walking, swimming, kayaking, boating and fishing.

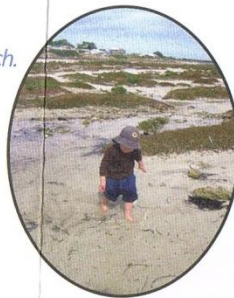
Observe local speed limit signage, 'vehicle free' beach areas and beach boat launching areas

Observe signage for fish cleaning and disposal of fish waste



9. Fishing for the Future— Fishing is very popular in the Bay by locals and visitors therefore it is important we 'fish for the future'. The Recreational Fishing Code of Practice will help us conserve our fish stocks:

- We take no more than our immediate needs.
 - We understand and observe all fishing regulations and report illegal fishing activities.
 - We support and encourage activities that restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitats.
 - We prevent pollution and support wildlife by removing rubbish.
 - We use established roads and tracks.
 - Take care when boating to avoid damaging sensitive areas.
 - We report environmental damage and pollution to the relevant authorities.
 - We quickly and correctly return unwanted illegal catch to the water.
 - We use only legal tackle, attend our gear and value our catch.
 - We practice courtesy toward all who use inland and coastal waters.
- We obtain permission from landholders and traditional owners before entering land.*
- We care for our own and the safety of others when fishing.*



10. Join the Hardwicke Bay Progress Association's Environment Group — and make a difference to our Bay.

Activities include working with school students, revegetation projects, collecting rubbish from the beach and dunes, repairing erosion in dunes and weed management.



Left...Students from Prince Alfred College weeding the revegetated site on Beach Road



Right...Students from Wilderness School undertaking revegetation on Foreshore Road

Help us to enjoy and protect Hardwicke Bay's wonderful environment by following our '10 Ways to Care for Our Bay' and let it continue to be the wonderful place to visit or to live...

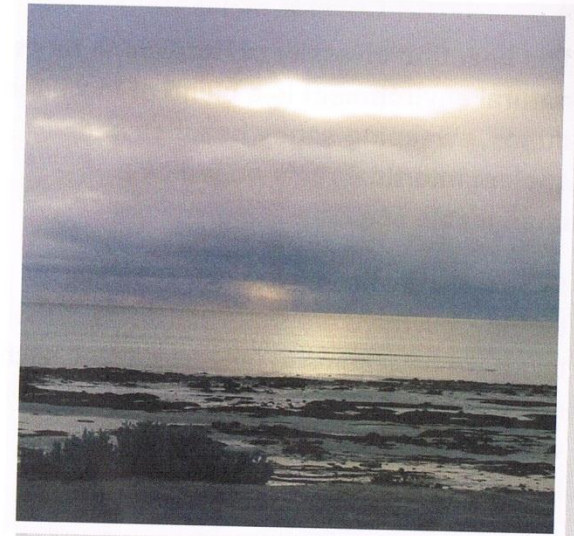
Hardwicke Bay Progress Association Inc.

progress@hardwickebay.org

Thank you to the Councils and Communities Caring for the Coast Project and the Australian Governments, Caring for our Country Program for funding the brochure.



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



10 WAYS
TO CARE FOR OUR BAY

See inside for 10 ways we can minimize our impact on Hardwicke Bay so that we can continue to enjoy what this wonderful part of Yorke Peninsula has to offer

A Wonderful Coastal Ecosystem

The beautiful diversity of Hardwicke Bay's natural environment is a blend of low sand dunes, sweeping sandy beaches and ancient intertidal reefs edged by a changeable sea.

People are being drawn in high numbers to the Bay, but there are signs that some of the things we have come to take for granted such as clean beaches, clear water and a wide variety of coast and marine life, are under threat.

While the coast and sea are two different environments, neither could exist alone and each are areas of rich biodiversity which fit into a fragile jigsaw puzzle.

If one piece goes missing the complete picture cannot be restored. What we do in this environment will impact on the future of our Bay.

The following guide shows 10 ways we can reduce our impact on this part of our world and determine what we leave for future generations.



1. Plant native plants—introduced species are one of the major threats facing our coastline. Many have escaped from gardens and compete with local plants resulting in habitat loss.

Observe signs adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas

Right...Statice, Gazania and many other introduced garden plants have escaped and are invading sand dunes in



2. Use designated tracks and steps to the beach—sand dunes are fragile and only the plants keep them stable.. Foot and vehicle traffic damages the plants causing the sand loss in our strong coastal winds.

Use the beach not the dunes when picnicking or playing



Left...This scour on the fore dune is the result of foot traffic from the roadway onto the beach.

3. Dogs on leads to protect our Hoodies—The beach above the high water mark is nesting sites for Hooded Plovers from August to May. Chicks and eggs are well camouflaged and easily trodden on by people and dogs.

Walk close to the waters edge

Right..Educational Signage



4. Enjoy a 'Rocky Shore Ramble' - During the low tide explore the rock pools for small marine animals and plants. By turning over rocks and following sand trails you will be amazed at the diversity of life in this harsh coastal zone.

Leave animals and plants in the water

Return overturned rocks to their original position

Intertidal reefs are protected—this means you can not take anything from them—dead or alive



5. Shell Collecting—Many marine snails produce beautiful shells that come in a wide range of colors, shapes and sizes. Empty shells provide a home and protection to the hermit crab.

Only collect empty shells from the beach

Leave some shells on the beach for use by animals for shelter

6. Sensitive habitats—Beach plants are very sensitive to trampling and take a long time to recover.

Avoid damaging these fragile plants by walking on the sand between the plant mounds.

7. Coastal Rubbish—Rubbish on beaches is unattractive, dangerous and unhealthy. Most rubbish does not break down and is harmful to wildlife.

Whatever you carry onto the beach carry it out

Do not bury rubbish on the beach

PLEASE pick up rubbish if you find it on our beach