

MEDIA RELEASE

18th February 2020

More litter on Local Beaches in Winter than Summer

Thanks to a dedicated local community volunteer, data is being collected on the volume of litter found on our local beaches. This valuable information is being collected year round between beach access ways 6W at Collendina to 14W in Ocean Grove.

This wonderful volunteer (who wishes to remain anonymous) has been collecting litter data since 2017. Analysing the 3 year litter dataset, we can start to see some concerning trends. The data is showing that the highest volume of rubbish along our coastline is during July, not during the busy summer months. In 2019, October and December had the highest number of days when litter was present in the collection area, however July showed the highest volume of litter overall.

The July 2019 records tallied 1766 pieces of dog waste and 3359 rubbish items collected over 25 days, compared to the December tally over 30 days of 759 pieces of dog waste and 1738 rubbish items. This is an increase of in excess of 60% for both categories.

Barwon Coast are keen to gather more data on rubbish on the local coastline, including the intertidal zone of the beaches. The more data, the more information Barwon Coast have to help the local community tackle this issue. If you are interested in becoming involved in regular citizen science litter clean ups, please contact Barwon Coast on 5254 1118 or office@barwoncoast.com.au indicating your availability and location of interest to you.

Quotes to be attributed to Maddie Glynn, Community Liaison and Education Manager, Barwon Coast

"It may come as a surprise to many that we have more litter on our beaches outside of the busy summer season.. This highlights that we all have a duty of care to be responsible for the volume of litter we bring down to the beach and how we choose to dispose of it. When coming to the beach 'Bring less is Best' and please clean up after your dog and dispose of all rubbish responsibly."

"Only together can we make the behavioural change happen that our local beaches need. I'm hoping next year the rubbish tally will decrease. It may not be your rubbish, but always remember to Take 3 for the Sea".

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact:

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03 5254 1118 or 0400 931 893

Notes for Editors:

Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) is appointed by the Victorian State Government to manage 15km of coastal Crown land through the Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads townships, along the Bass Strait coast of the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, Australia. Our vision is that the natural environment of our coastline will flourish whilst meeting the needs of our engaged communities. A major local employer in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove, we have more than 50 skilled employees from a diverse range of backgrounds working across the coastal reserve.

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