

Media Release



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For Immediate Release

HEALTHY CATCHMENTS
HEALTHY OCEANS

Catch N Cook at Towra Point.

A group of Aboriginal students from La Perouse, Malabar and Matraville Public Schools spent a day last week out at Towra Point at Kurnell getting their hands dirty gathering marine litter and learning about its affect on habitat and local fishing.

The day was a joint project between OceanWatch Australia's "Tide to Table" and Koori Communications and Training "Catch N Cook" program, and was organised to show the group of 15 kids the impact of littering on our environment, birds, fish and other marine life.

Director of Koori Communications and Training, Peter Cooley, said "the day was a good balance between showing the students the enjoyment of fishing while still being aware of their impact on the environment. The students were shown sustainable fishing and environmental practices including not discarding their old fishing line and empty bait bags as well as taking home any rubbish they bought in".

According to OceanWatch Australia's "Tide to Table" Program Manager, Simon Rowe, "Botany Bay's is an icon example of a large healthy wetland supporting seafood production, because of this it's important we protect it".

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for NSW National Parks and Wildlife, Dean Kelly, was also on hand to talk about the importance of Towra Point to the local Aboriginal community.

Teacher Michelle Bishop from Malabar Public School said the day was a great success. "The program provided students with an opportunity to combine cultural and environmental knowledge. They now have a keen awareness of the link between littering and the detrimental effects it has on the environment and wildlife".

OceanWatch Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation promoting sustainability in the Australian seafood industry by protecting and enhancing fish habitats, improving water quality and advancing the sustainability of fisheries. OceanWatch does this through action based partnerships with the Australian seafood industry, government, natural resource managers, business and the community.



For further information on these and other projects of OceanWatch Australia, please contact Simon Rowe on 02 9660 2262, or visit our website at www.oceanwatch.org.au or www.kooricommunications.com for information on Catch N Cook fishing.

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Photo Credit: Andy Myers (OceanWatch Australia).

Caption: Matthew Timbery and students from La Perouse Public School , Malabar Public School and Matraville Public School survey rubbish amongst the salt marsh at Towra Point.



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FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

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