



**Prize Winner**

# **Science Writing**

## **Year 3-4**

**Chloe Lambden**

**Walkerville Primary School**

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The water is a deep blue, and sunlight filters down from the surface, creating a shimmering effect. In the foreground, there is a rocky seabed covered with various types of coral and small, colorful fish. A larger fish, possibly a shark, is visible in the lower right corner. The overall scene is serene and beautiful, representing a healthy marine ecosystem.

# Shirley the Short-Tailed Shearwater and the Polluted Ocean

By Chloe Piper Lambden



Shirley the Short-tailed Shearwater glided gracefully over the gigantic deep blue ocean, showing off her shimmering feathers. Something was shining against the dark shadows on the sea floor, so Shirley swooped down and picked up a shell fish in her sharp beak.



The Short-tailed Shearwater is the most common sea bird in Australian waters. The bird is found in coastal waters feeding on krill and small fish. The ocean is so big that it covers more than two thirds of the earth's surface and only 5% of it has been explored.



Shirley spotted a huge ship carrying loads of containers and an oil tanker transporting items and oil to a nearby island. She continued flying but bumped into a cruise ship. Inside she saw many tourists having a relaxing holiday. As Shirley flew closer to shore she could see people swimming, snorkelling and fishing.



Over 97% of earth's water is in oceans. Oceans are used in many different ways. Some of these include mining, relaxation and travel. Marine plants provide oxygen for our earth and draw in carbon dioxide. Marine life provides food (as some people eat fish and other sea animals). Ocean tides help people make electricity, a form of energy.





As Shirley perched down on a post near the beach she could have sworn she saw something floating out in the distance. "I have to go investigate!" exclaimed Shirley. As she flew, she noticed it was no sea creature, it was a plastic bottle! She knew this from flying over the beach and seeing many of these things in people's hands or in their mouth.



Most pollution in our oceans comes from human activity. This includes:

- People fishing and discarding their fishing lines
- Fertilisers and poisonous chemicals coming from farms running down the river and into oceans
- Rubbish not put in bins (plastics, food scraps, glass bottles, cans, paper)





Shirley saw another shell fish (at least something that looked like one.) "Mmmm, yummy" murmured Shirley. She swooped down, picked it up and almost swallowed it. 'Cough cough' she spluttered. As she looked around she noticed that she was getting tangled in an enormous garbage patch, and it was a balloon she had tried to eat.

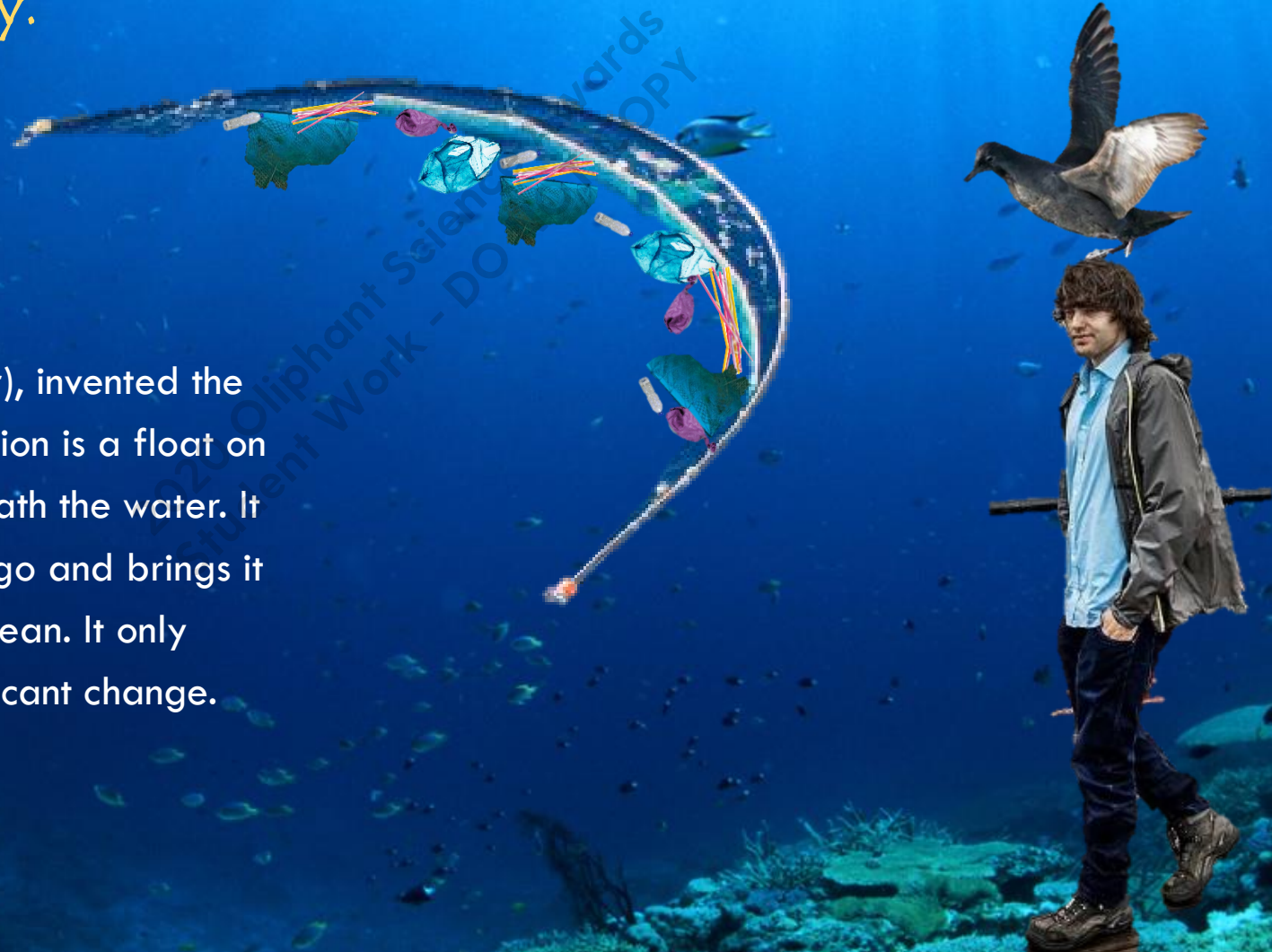


Garbage patches are big patches of garbage collected in a gyre. 7 billion tons of rubbish are washed out each year into oceans which is the weight of around 1 billion elephants. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. Entanglement from people discarding fishing nets injures and kills many marine animals like turtles and dugongs. Oil from spills gets over feathers of sea birds which means they cannot fly, and on other marine mammals skin which prevents them from moving freely. Marine animals eat plastic and other garbage as food and they think that their stomach is full when really it isn't and they sadly die. Animals get poisoned by chemicals like fertiliser and other poisonous stuff. It is estimated 1 million sea birds and 100 000 marine animals are killed by plastic!



Shirley struggled to get out the garbage patch, until she swam into an invention thing. "KAAAW, KAAAW" she screeched, flying up. As she flew over to the side she saw in gold letters 'Ocean Clean up Machine'. Shirley felt threatened thinking it would try to trap her too. She raced away.

In 2013, Boyan Slat (a Dutch inventor), invented the Ocean Clean Up Machine. This invention is a float on top of the water with a skirt underneath the water. It collects large piles of rubbish in one go and brings it back to land, helping clean up the ocean. It only takes one individual to make a significant change.





The next morning Shirley woke to the sound of crackling noises. After her eyes adjusted to the sunlight, she noticed that everyone was picking up rubbish on the beach. She landed on a patch of beach and started collecting rubbish to put in the bin.



From an individual to a group, and from groups to the government, action in cleaning up the oceans and the beaches is important. People have created projects such as “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”, #2minutebeachclean, Take 3 from the Sea and Coastal Clean Up Day. The government has constructed projects such as the Pacific Ocean Litter Project and the Australian Packaging Covenant (which uses numbers to represent what rubbish can be recycled).



'Finally people are working together to clean up the ocean!' Shirley thought. The future for my friends and I looks good.



A square piece of Aboriginal art, likely a bark painting, featuring a series of horizontal, wavy bands. The bands are filled with intricate patterns of small circles and dots in various colors, including deep blue, teal, orange, and white. The overall effect is a vibrant, textured composition that suggests natural elements like water or land.

Rodney Dillon (Aboriginal Commissioner) thinks "Oceans are a part of us, and we are a part of them." The CSIRO believe that if we innovate for tomorrow we can help improve today. We can do this by collaborating, working together and imagining new solutions.



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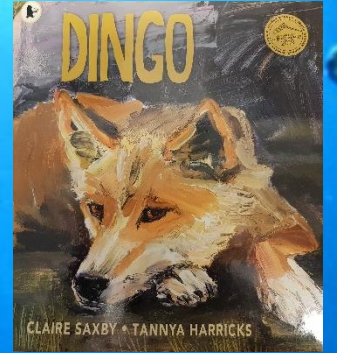
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dingo by Claire Saxby inspired me to use fictional and factual text on the same page.

My mum helped me to borrow books and look at resources on the internet. She took me to the beach where I collected rubbish to see the different types of litter. She helped me check the word count. Finally she showed me how to write the resources list.



At the beach I collected tissues, paper, plastic wrappers/spoons/cups, string, dog poo bags, chocolate wrappers, cigarette butts, pom poms, serviettes, straws, a sock, sticky tape, a rubber band, ribbon, chip packets, cardboard and a shopping receipt.

