

Be Penguin Aware

Little Penguins - Big Future



SECTION A

INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

This project has been funded by Manly Council's Environmental Levy.
This project has been funded by Coastcare- a cooperative Commonwealth/State/Local
Government program supporting communities caring for our coast.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What does being 'Penguin Aware' mean?

Being 'Penguin Aware' means understanding about and taking action to minimise the threats to the endangered population of Little Penguins at Manly.

Council is pleased to provide you with this Training Folder and other educational materials to assist you to teach people how to minimise their impacts on the Little Penguins at Manly and be 'Penguin Aware'.

1.2 About this folder

The materials in this folder are designed to provide you with a solid understanding about and knowledge of actions to minimise the threats to the Little Penguins at Manly.

Whether you are communicating to school children, boaters, fishers, pet owners, scuba divers or visitors to Manly, this folder aims to make it easier for you to teach others how to be 'Penguin Aware'.

You can use the fact sheets provided in this folder as handouts. Photocopy them or contact Council for additional copies.

You can use the promotional materials as prizes for 'Penguin Aware' activities you organise with groups in the Manly community.

1.3 This folder contains

The information in this folder is divided into two main sections:

SECTION A: INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

1. Introduction
2. Getting others involved – Who, What, How?
3. Background information about Manly's Little Penguins

SECTION B: COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCES

3. Fact Sheets
4. Activity Sheets
5. Additional Resources

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3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT MANLY'S LITTLE PENGUINS

Please refer to the fact sheets provided to gain an understanding of the background to the Little Penguin's situation at Manly.

The suggestions of how to minimise threats to the Little Penguin are indicated in the fact sheets by 'You can help'. Be aware also that there are times of the year when Little Penguins are particularly vulnerable, as follows:

When are Little Penguins most vulnerable to threats?

While returning home

Little Penguins 'walk' home along pathways to their burrows and often stop to call to mates, chick or to preen their feathers. This behaviour makes them easily detected by predators such as dogs, even in the dark.

During their breeding season (July through March)

If just one parent dies or abandons the nest during breeding season, penguin chicks will also die as penguins share caring duties with their mate.

Little Penguins feed their chick by regurgitating food from their stomachs. So, if a parent is delayed in returning to the burrow or has to travel too far to find food, it may digest the food that was meant for the chick and the chick will go without food. Chicks that are underfed have less chance of surviving to adulthood.

If habitat is lost, even temporarily, at the start of the breeding season, penguins may not find another suitable burrow in time and may not breed that year.

As chick near fledging, they venture out of the nest in the day, making them particularly vulnerable to threats.

During the moult

Little Penguins often stop to moult in any spot on the beach, just under a bush, or even out in the open. Their coat is not waterproof during the moult so they can't escape from predators into the sea. They don't eat during the moult so eat enough before they start to fast for three weeks. At twice their usual bodyweight, Little Penguins are then too fat to move! By the end of the moult they are too weak from hunger to move quickly either, which is why they are particularly vulnerable to threats such as passing dogs and humans.

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2.0 GETTING OTHERS INVOLVED –continued...

How

Conducting your 'Penguin Aware' activity:

Prepare in advance

- Think about your audience, this will help you to decide which educational materials to use.
 - Are they mostly adult or youth?
 - What are their needs and expectations?
- Prepare yourself
 - What are you going to say or do?
 - How are you going to say it?
 - What main points do you want to cover in the time available?
 - Prepare a running order for yourself, including activities from the folder or create activities you think are most appropriate for your audience.

Be creative!

- Make a list of materials you need and organise them
 - e.g. microphone, table, copies of fact sheets, promotional materials as prizes.

During your presentation

- Introduce yourself
- Keep it simple
 - Use simple words to explain an idea to a group. If technical language or jargon is used during a discussion with a group, encourage the participants to explain what the word means. This means that everyone (including you) will understand what is being talked about.
 - At all times, keep your language clear and simple. Speak slowly and clearly and be aware of people who may have more trouble understanding you, if English is their second language, or because of a hearing impediment.
- Have fun, be creative and improvise!
 - Use a combination of information and fun activities to keep your audience happy and interested.
- And don't forget rewards!
 - The 'Penguin Aware' promotional material can be used as prizes for your activities

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2.0 GETTING OTHERS INVOLVED – WHO, WHAT, HOW?

Who

The following is a list of groups whom you may like to contact to conduct a 'Penguin Aware' activity:

- Manly Ferry crew
- Commercial fishers
- Yacht clubs
- Recreational fishers
- Powered water craft users
- Surfers (surf schools)
- Life Saving Cubs
- Scuba divers
- Developers
- Visitors/tourists
- Residents
- Primary schools
- High schools
- TAFE students

What

Suggestions for 'Penguin Aware' Activities for Schools

- Art competition: organise a drawing competition using the template provided. You can use the project promotional materials available as prizes.
- Poetry competition: organise a poetry competition using the template provided. You can use the project promotional materials available as prizes.
- Origami penguins
- 'Litter penguins': make Little Penguin sculptures with a school group out of litter such as milkshake cups or paddle pop sticks. 'Reverse Garbage' in Marrickville can provide cheap recycled craft materials. This will highlight to students the link between litter and disturbance to Little Penguins.
- Penguin songs & stories: penguin songs and stories are available from the internet (see Further Information Sources)
- Find-a-word activity: You can use the template provided in this folder.
- Tula is a 'human-sized' costume character Little Penguin. She is available to borrow for 'Penguin Aware' activities from the Manly Environment Centre.

Safety Note: In any activity, ensure the safety of participants, particularly if organising an event outdoors. Ensure the protection of Little Penguin habitat too – it is not appropriate to organise 'Penguin Aware' activities, such as a tours, near penguin burrows

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Photo: National Geographic and Julie Bourne, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Little Penguin Chicks almost ready to fledge

Watermark Photo: Mike McKelvey

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