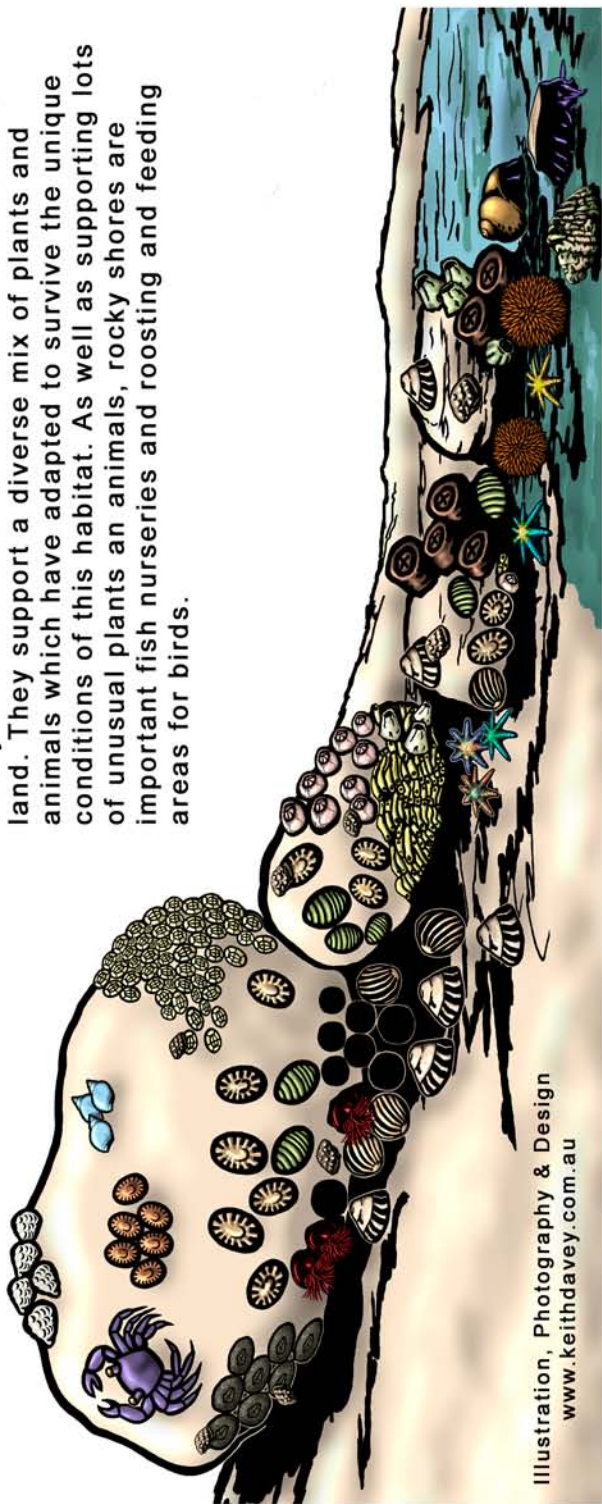


Rocky shores are found where the sea meets the land. They support a diverse mix of plants and animals which have adapted to survive the unique conditions of this habitat. As well as supporting lots of unusual plants and animals, rocky shores are important fish nurseries and roosting and feeding areas for birds.



Illustration, Photography & Design  
[www.keithdavey.com.au](http://www.keithdavey.com.au)

*For more information  
visit these sites...*

Newcastle City Council  
[www.ncc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ncc.nsw.gov.au)

Coastcare  
[www.coastcare.com.au](http://www.coastcare.com.au)

NSW Department of Fisheries  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

MESA - Marine Education Society of  
Australasia Inc  
[www.mesa.edu.au](http://www.mesa.edu.au)

Life on Australian Seashores  
[http://www.mesa.edu.au/  
friends/seashores/index.html](http://www.mesa.edu.au/friends/seashores/index.html)

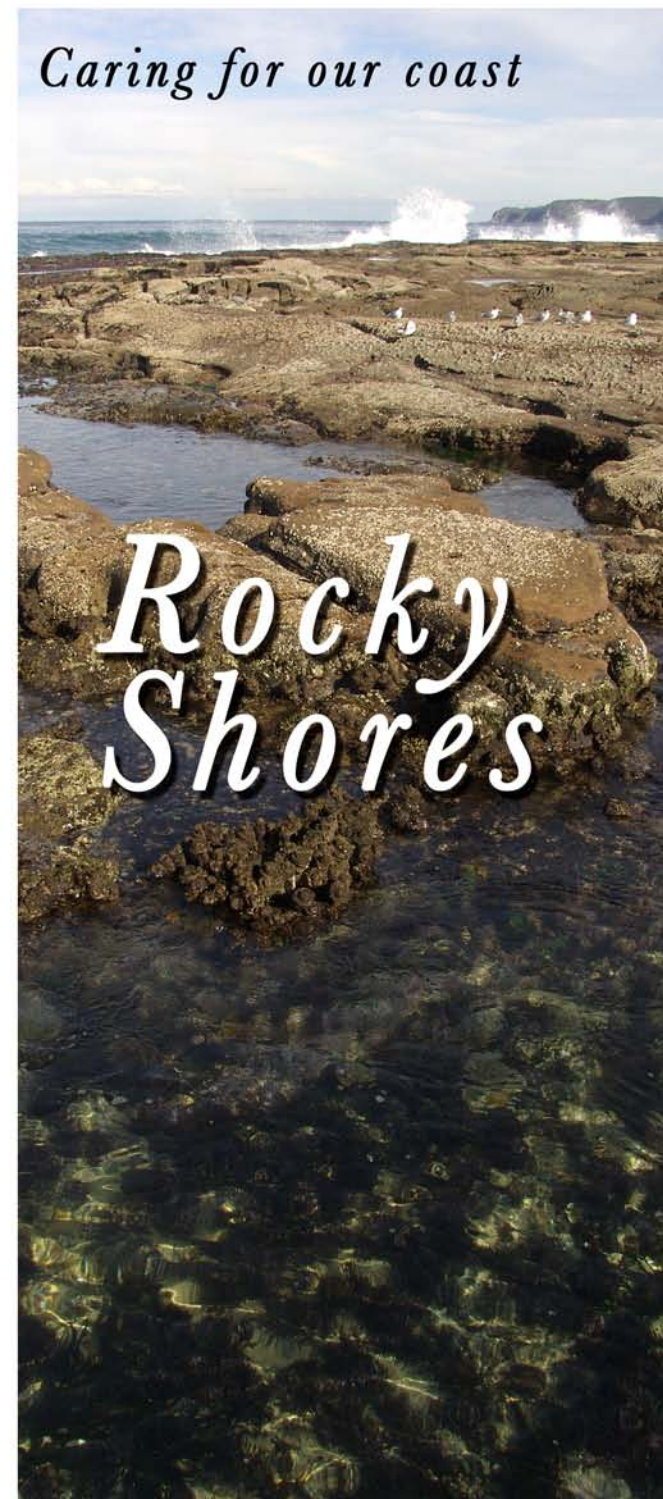
Hunter Central Rivers Catchment  
Management Authority  
[www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au)



*This project aims to  
support the conservation of  
biodiversity along the  
Newcastle Coastline*



*Caring for our coast*



## Rocky Shore Ecology

The intertidal rocky shores of south eastern Australia are inhabited by a great diversity of plants and animals. Many of these organisms have adapted well to the extreme physical conditions of this environment (temperature, wave turbulence, drying out) as well as the ecological interactions that occur in the community (a community is formed by the interaction of all organisms living on and around the shore).



photo: Chris Herbert

On rocky shores, animals and plants are found at various levels. Where they occur is based upon the tides or how long an organism is covered or uncovered by water, usually twice each day on NSW shores.

Sometimes you may see distinct parallel bands of species across the rocky shore. This is caused by each animal type having its own habitat range, determined by environmental and biological factors. Animals high on the shore must deal with being dried out by the sun, while those at low levels must be adapted to being battered by the waves and eaten by predators.

## What you can do to help...

- Limit bait collection of intertidal plants and animals.
- Do not take plants and animals home with you. Take a photo instead.
- Always keep your dog on a lead and under control.
- Watch where your walking and tread carefully.
- When you explore rocky shores, always put animals back where you found them.
- Don't turn rocks over and leave them in the hot sunlight. Most plants and animals on the underside will die if exposed to the sun. Those on top will die if buried.
- Don't leave food scraps, plastic, litter or discarded fishing line on the platform.
- Lead by example and develop a caring, conserving attitude to our rocky shores.
- Share with your friends, neighbours and children your desire to protect the animals and plants on rock platforms on our coast.



## Sensitive Habitats

The greatest contact that most people have with marine life is on rock platforms. These habitats are the most accessible marine environments to humans and they provide us with an enjoyable opportunity for passive recreation, for science and environmental education.



photo: Pat Davey

However, our activities can cause damage to the rock platforms. Activities such as collecting for food, bait and ornaments; trampling; littering; and habitat disturbance, can all lead to significant changes in the rocky shore community.

These changes can include reductions in type and abundance of plants and animals and the introduction of invasive species. Such impacts compromise the biodiversity, functioning and human use values of our rocky shores and can have long lasting effects.



photo: Louise Duff