

Preface



The Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) is a non-government conservation body focussed on the provision of marine and coastal education for its members and the general community. Founded in 1985, it has a national executive and branches in every state and territory, with members in every state and overseas.

MESA holds a biennial conference. In response to requests by members, the 1995 conference was replaced by a field based workshop. It was held at HMAS *Creswell*, the Navy base at Jervis Bay, New South Wales, between the 2nd and 7th of November, 1995.

The key objectives were to provide participants with opportunities to promote awareness and understanding of coastal marine processes and issues, and to provide appropriate methodologies for investigating these; to develop understanding of local management issues in the current and proposed protected areas of Jervis Bay which may be similar to home; to participate in experiential learning activities and develop confidence in field activities; and to contribute to a Field Resource Guide.

Some 65 participants trialled activities around Jervis Bay. They sought to establish best practice in coastal and marine field-work and related activity-based workshops. Experienced marine scientists and local Park, Fisheries, and other agency managers provided briefings on the field sites and local management issues. Daily evaluation sessions enabled changes to be incorporated into the final activity. Participants also suggested further field activities which could be added to provide a more complete guide to marine and coastal work.

These Field Activities, funded by Environment Australia, combine the trialled activities and additional materials submitted by the participants and other marine educators in Australia and New Zealand. Some activities presented at the Workshop at Jervis Bay are not included in these field activities as they could not be applied to all coastal and marine environments. This publication does not purport to be a guide to everything a student or user of a marine area could do, but it attempts to provide some best practice activities for primary and secondary schools, and for those members of the public who wish to learn something about their environment.

Each activity has its key outcomes listed. These are based on the Curriculum Profile for Australian Schools in Science, though curriculum links can be made across all key learning areas, particularly Mathematics, English, Social Sciences, and Human Society and It's Environment (HSIE).

The key questions are designed to stimulate student interest, and the activities are directed at students of the level stated at the beginning of each activity. Occasionally, it has been deemed necessary to add precautionary notes if the activity involves special hazards. The introductory sections outline procedures for carrying out successful field work, and explain the basic scientific approach to marine field work.

The bibliography includes key books used by teachers working in the field. Users should also refer to the many field guides available for species identification.