

# PORT PHILLIP BAYKEEPER SHORELINE SHELL SURVEY



Beach name:  
 Start landmark:  
 Start time:  
 Survey by:

Date:  
 End landmark:  
 Finish time:

Email / phone:

Use scale below to measure shell size					
10mm	20mm	30mm	40mm	50mm	80mm

photo number	Name of shell (if known) or brief description of general shape, colour and features, eg round, cream coloured with fine ridges	Estimate number in survey area					shell size at longest and widest points
		one only	less than 10	10 to 50	51 to 100	more than 100	
1							L: W:
2							L: W:
3							L: W:
4							L: W:
5							L: W:
6							L: W:
7							L: W:
8							L: W:
9							L: W:
10							L: W:
11							L: W:
12							L: W:
13							L: W:
14							L: W:
15							L: W:

Notes on beach condition: eg, seaweeds present, litter items, beach erosion, dead fish... anything unusual?

**Every beach is different! Find out what makes your favourite beach special.**

Shoreline shell surveys provide insights into the marine habitats offshore of local beaches and records which species are more or less common. Repeated surveys can detect longer term changes in species populations and beach condition. They also provide information for educational brochures and perhaps even a book on Port Phillip Bay shells.

## HOW TO DO THE PORT PHILLIP BAYKEEPER SHORELINE SHELL SURVEY

All you need is a clip board and pen, a digital camera, and an hour to explore your favourite beach. But **STAY SAFE...** don't put your hand where you can't see!

### AT THE BEACH:

1. Choose two landmarks at least 50 paces apart to mark the start and finish of the survey area (eg. pole, tree, pier, bin, street name).
2. **Note landmarks and the beach name and the date at the top of the sheet!**
3. Walk slowly along the high tide line and collect the largest example of each different type of shell. Include pieces of broken shell if they are obviously different species.
4. When you reach the survey end landmark: photograph each shell collected and fill in the survey sheet (description, size and estimate of abundance) for each photo. Use the scale on the survey sheet to measure the length and width of the shell.
5. A good estimate of the abundance of each species is OK. No need to count every shell!
6. Photograph unusual aspects of beach condition and any birds in the area.

### AT HOME:

7. Download your photos and number them in the order recorded on the survey sheet.
8. Type your survey sheet field notes into a digital copy to email with photos (in a folder named by beach name and date) to: [baykeeper@ecocentre.com](mailto:baykeeper@ecocentre.com)
9. Please let us know if you have difficulty with the survey method!

Contact: Neil Blake

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[www.bay-keeper.com](http://www.bay-keeper.com)

[www.ecocentre.com](http://www.ecocentre.com)

### Some suggested reading:

Australian Marine Life

Graham J Edgar. Reed New Holland

Bayside Beaches of Port Phillip

Raymond V Lewis

Coastal Invertebrates of Victoria

Field Naturalists Club of Vic, Marine Research Group

Marine Molluscs of Victoria

MacPherson & Gabriel. Melb Uni Press & National Museum of Vic

Seahells of South-East Australia

Patty Jansen. Capricornia Publications

Victoria's Rocky Intertidal Coast

Eds. Rebecca Koss & Dr Tim O'Hara

**Many thanks for your contribution!**