



# Weathering litter impacts

Hot days behind spike in pollution, study reveals



**ROSS HEADIFEN**  
BEACH PATROL AUSTRALIA

Can weather have an effect on plastic litter you may ask? Litter is a human behaviour not a geophysical factor, surely!

Well, it turns out the two factors are not unrelated.

In a year-long daily survey of litter washed out of Port Phillip Bay, on to a beach in Port Melbourne, every piece of plastic that had washed ashore in the previous 24 hours was counted.

In addition to counting the pieces of plastic, the wind direction and strength and maximum temperature for the previous day were also recorded.

Whenever a hot day was recorded, there was an increase in plastic litter a day or so later.

This was quite evident for the occasional hotter than normal day throughout the cooler months, and very clear for the frequent hot days in summer and early autumn.

Days with strong onshore winds resulted in more plastic rubbish washed ashore.

Plastic mostly floats, therefore the onshore wind created waves which carried it on to the beaches.

Putting this together makes one picture showing the cycle: on a hot day people go outside and some irresponsibly litter. The rubbish ends up floating down the Yarra River into the bay. Once an onshore wind comes up, the litter is carried though the water to end up polluting our beaches.

Hence, the one simple way to stop litter ending up on our beaches is to not let people go outside on sunny days!



Arabella, Hugo and Charley are backing the market's plastic straw ban.  
Picture: Penny Stephens

## Straw no more at South Melbourne Market

Plastic straws will be banned at South Melbourne Market from Saturday as part of its plastic waste reduction program.

It follows a move to ban plastic bags at the market earlier this year, ahead of the statewide prohibition and Port Phillip Council's decision to stop the use of plastic straws at large outdoor events in the municipality in support of the Love

Our Bay campaign, a joint initiative with the *Leader*.

From December 1 traders will not supply plastic straws but could offer alternatives such as paper or reusable aluminium straws.

Manager Ian Sumpter said the market was committed to stamping out harm caused by plastic litter.

Australians use an estimated 10 million straws every day,

according to data from Clean Up Australia.

Most of these are used once for about 15 minutes and end up polluting our oceans.

Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss said the straw ban was a "further reflection of the market's commitment to reducing waste and keeping plastics away from our bay and vulnerable marine life".



## Congratulations to the 2018 National Winners



**Kayla Mears & Brianna Mears,**  
**Junior Sports Star Team 2018**

Kayla and Brianna Mears, twins aged 15, from Brisbane, made their first Queensland Beach Volleyball team in 2016 at 13 years of age. Despite being the shortest team on the beach tour, they've represented their state to become the current National U17 Champions, a testament to their athleticism and determination.



**Ariane Titmus,**  
**Junior Sports Star Individual 2018**

With a stellar performance at the 2018 Commonwealth Games winning 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal and again at the Pan Pacific Games with 1 gold and 2 silver, at age 17, from Brisbane, Ariane broke Australian records and is the third woman in history to break 4 minutes for the 400m freestyle.



**Jacob Trzeczinski,**  
**Young Sporting Spirit Individual 2018**

In 2016, at 15, Jacob was diagnosed with brain cancer. After treatment, Jacob resumed football earning a place on Manly Utd's U16 team in the NSW Premier League. With mining magnate and philanthropist Andrew Forrest he raised \$300,000+ for the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation and is an advocate for brain cancer awareness.



**Caboolture Suns U14 Boys,**  
**Young Sporting Spirit Team 2018**

The Caboolture Suns U14 Boys Rep Team are dedicated to training and the support of each other. This basketball team embodies sportsmanship and encouragement as one of their members has Tourette Syndrome and Juvenile Arthritis. A true inspiration, the team is a great example of acceptance and support.



**Roger O'Brien,**  
**Service to Sport 2018**

Roger, 84, Melbourne, has been involved with Croydon Football Club since 1948. He started in the U16s and over 70 years he has been involved as a player, a coach, creating the past players committee and raising funds. Most recently, he helped start the 'legends and welfare' group, visiting sick past players and taking them out for lunch.