

**TAKE3**  
FOR THE SEA

# Officer Primary School Incursion





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# Key info

## Date

8th May 2023

## Location

Officer Primary School  
13-23 Tivendale Rd  
Officer, VIC 3809

**48**

Grade 5-6  
students  
participated in  
Take 3's Education  
Program

**3**

Teachers  
participated in  
Take 3's Education  
Program

## Teacher contacts

Julian De Silva

## Incidents

Nil





# Overview

As we know, the ocean provides us with 70% of the oxygen we breath, making the health of the ocean intrinsically connected to the health of all on land, including people. Without a healthy ocean, life on earth suffers. Plastic is severely impacting the overall health of ours seas, with 8 million tonnes entering the water every year globally, resulting in the death of over 100,000 marine animals and over a million seabirds each year through ingestion and entanglement.

Take 3 aims to reduce this impact through education that inspires participation, encouraging everyone to make positive changes in whatever way they can. The schools program provides students with the opportunity to understand the plastic pollution problem and become motivated to be part of the solution.

On Monday the 8th of May 2023, Take 3 visited Officer Primary School in partnership with AVID Property Group to educate the Grade 5/6 students with an in-class presentation, a school clean up and waste audit and finally an action plan.



# Activity: Take 3 Presentation

The incursion began with a presentation focusing on the story of Take 3 and the plastic pollution issue. In Australia, we consume 3.5 million tonnes of plastic annually, of which 130,000 tonnes leaks into the marine environment.

Plastic is an amazing material; it's lightweight, durable and persistent - and it is for these reasons we use a lot of it. However, combine all of these factors together and wherever you are, you will encounter plastic. The problem with plastic is that it doesn't go 'away' or break-down. It breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces that become microplastics and nanoplastics.

The students learnt about the life-cycle of plastic to understand that it isn't just where plastic ends up but how it is made that affects our environment. They were very engaged, asking lots of questions and listening very intently. They seemed particularly interested in the way plastic breaks up, not down into microplastics and nanoplastics, and how it impacts marine animals like turtles through entanglement and ingestion.





# Activity: Litter Collection & Audit

After the presentation, the kids went outside to do a waste collection and audit of their findings. They were split up into groups of 3-4 and given gloves, bags, buckets and tongs to pick up rubbish, as well as a data collection sheet from the Australian Marine Debris Initiative to record what they found. This was a great exercise to get the kids thinking about the kinds of waste they were coming across and begin thinking about how necessary some of these items were.



Common items found were plastic wrappers from many foods like museli bars, chips and popcorn, ziploc bags, glad wrap and easter egg foil. They also found a number of loom bands and burst water balloons, prompting great conversation around more sustainable ways to play outside.

The students were very enthusiastic throughout the clean up, admitting surprise at how much they found and working well together in teams.

**Litter Audit:  
7kg & over  
1000 pieces  
collected**

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# Activity: Action Plan

After recess, the students returned to the classroom to discuss what they had found and to write their action plans. They were asked to think about why these plans were important, where and when they will take place, what ideas they had and how could they inspire others to take action.



They came up with some awesome ideas including:

- Use beeswax wraps instead of glad wrap
- Use more containers at school rather than ziploc bags
- Use paper or metal straws not plastic
- Take nude food to school
- Win house points for rubbish collection at recess/lunch
- Bring reusable drink bottles to school/sport
- Use bubbles instead of balloons at parties
- Use reusable bags when you go shopping
- Support sustainable businesses



# Reducing Plastic Waste

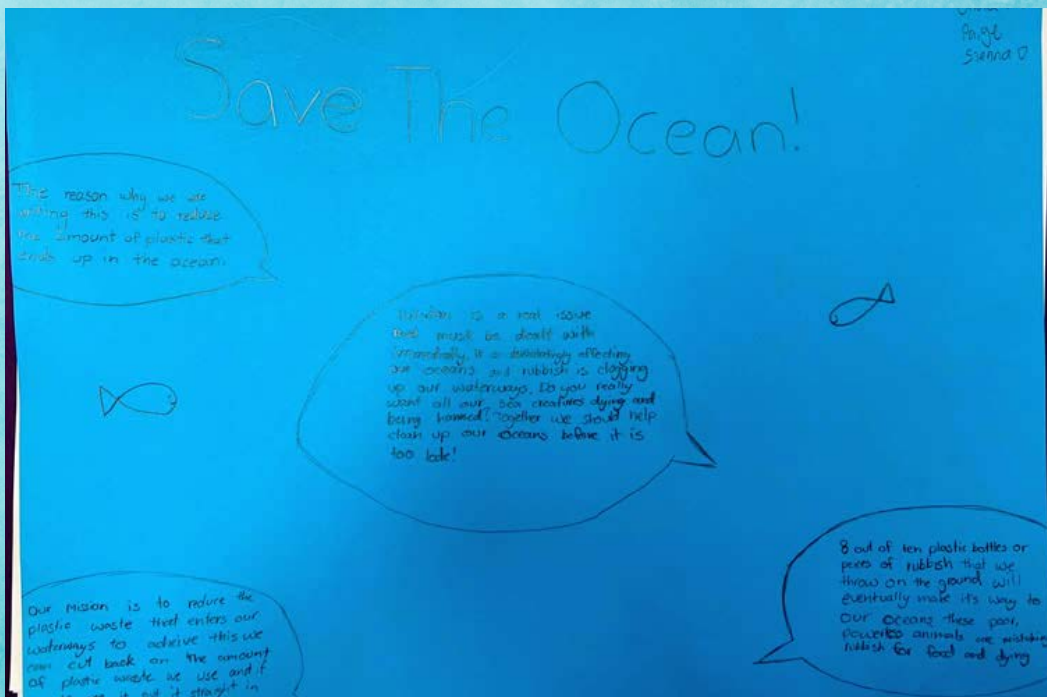
## Ideas

- Using Containers
- Don't buy excess packaging
- Pick up rubbish even if it isn't yours
- Beeswax instead of glad wrap
- Reusable drink bottles
- Nuth food day (Reduce plastic packaging)

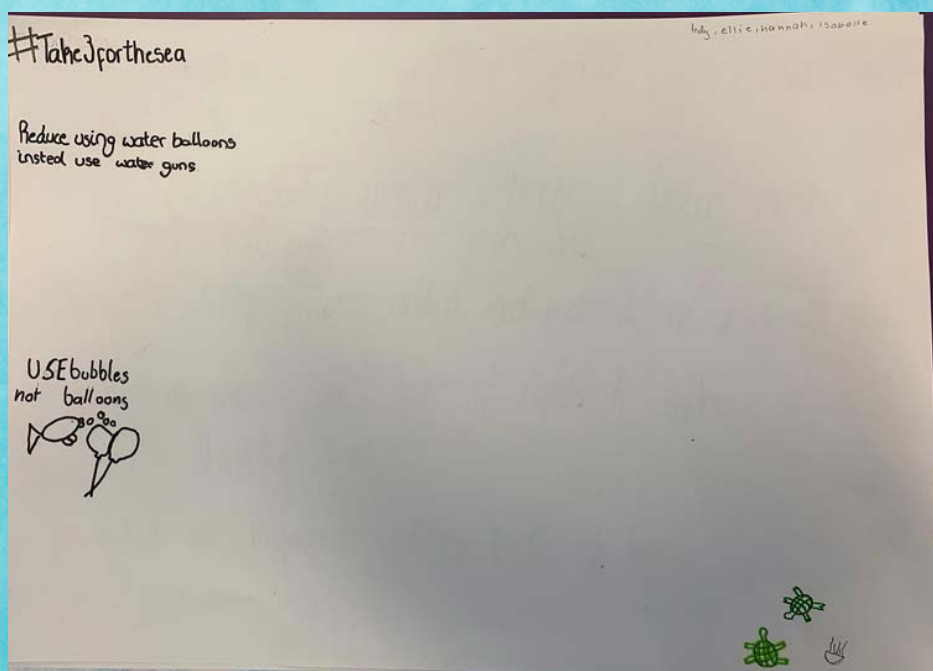
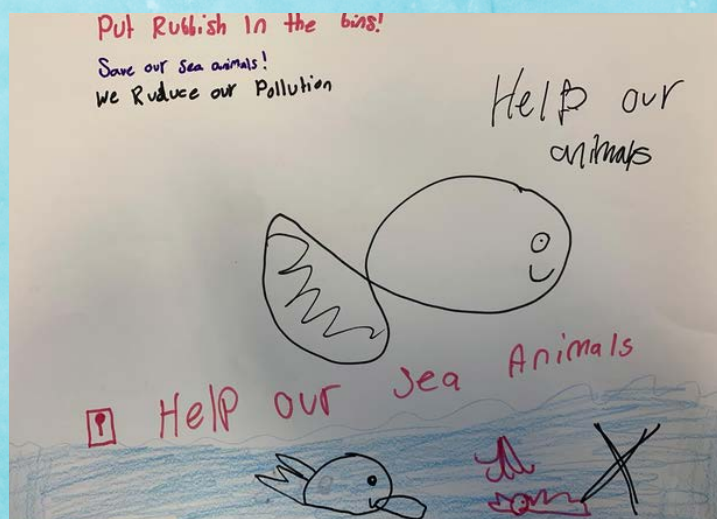
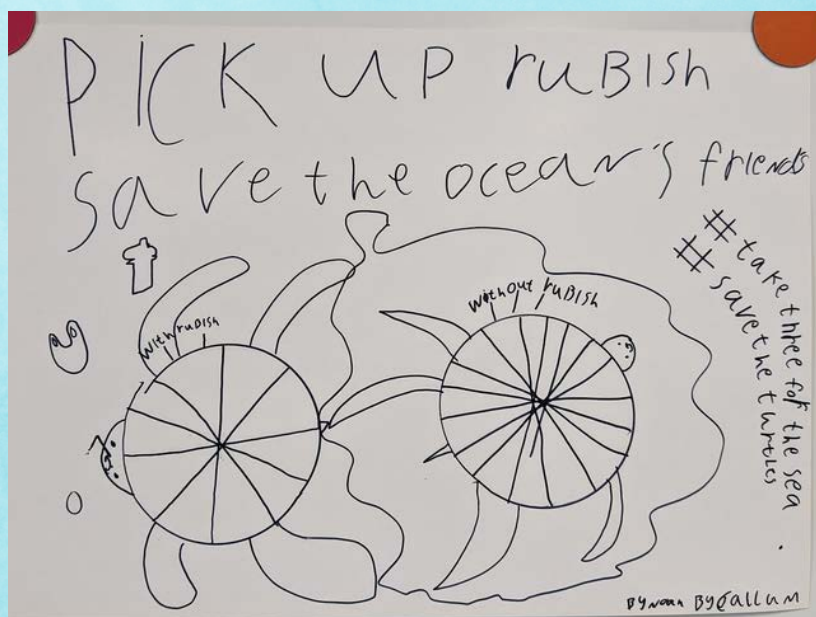
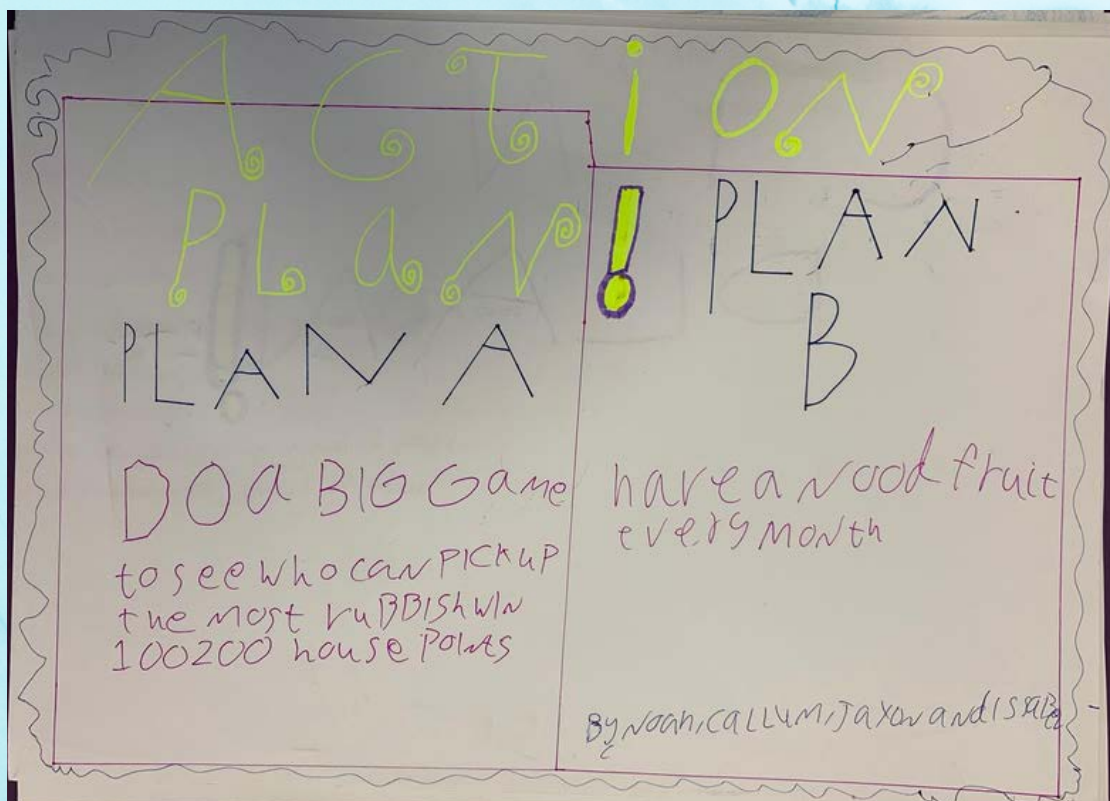
Isobel.B, Olivia.D, Tylah.W

Dusty, Harper, Tyler, Aden

reduce pollution.  
pick up 3 pieces of rubbish every day.  
tell every one you know.  
here/at school









2. I'm creating an action plan because I want to help the ocean.

2- I'll be careful about what I buy, pick up rubbish, tell others to join in.

3. Don't drop your rubbish and put it in a bin.

4. At a place with lots of rubbish, like a beach. Shopping Centre

5. You can inspire others. Tell them to join in.

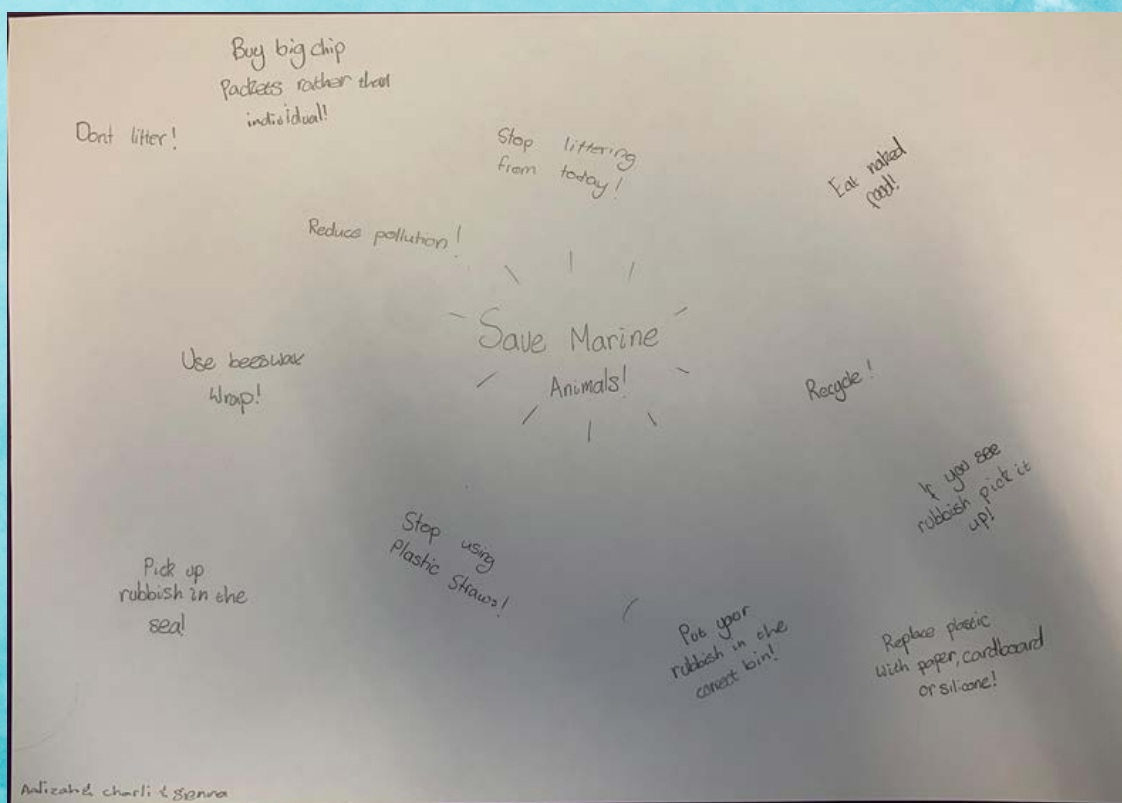
Oscar

wa, Ava R. Leah

### ACTION PLAN

. We start today

- eat naked food
- don't use water balloons.
- buy reusable bags.
- buy a big chip packet instead of small ones.
- use beeswax wraps
- use containers
- use reusable spoons instead of plastic.
- use hankchiefs <sup>or fabric</sup> instead of tissue.





# Final notes

The half day incursion with Officer Primary School was an fun way to for students to see first hand just how much waste was ending up in the environment and their school grounds. The kids participated enthusiastically and had lots of questions. They were keen to share some of the things they were already doing to reduce their waste and were inspired to begin implementing some of the great ideas they came up in their action plans, both at school and at home.

Some of the ideas for the school that were practical and could be instated included nude food days, collecting and disposing of 3 bits of rubbish each the end of each lunch (perhaps a rewards system like house points or reminder announcement), and a talk from the students at assembly sharing what they had learnt and planned on changing. It will be important to continue having these conversations about sustainability with students to encourage behavioural change when it comes to daily plastic use.

