



# Millions of plastic pieces choking bay

**W**hat is a macroplastic? Simply put, it is a plastic piece larger than 5mm across. It can be anything from a straw or a bottle top to a piece of plastic film or bag.

Macroplastics have two undesirable effects. One is the visual unpleasantness of plastic rubbish on the beach or in parks.

More dire is the danger it poses to innocent wildlife. The bright colours of a bottle top or a straw can be attractive to birds as food for their young.

That clear plastic bag looks just like a jellyfish to a turtle — and turtles love jellyfish.

BeachPatrol performed a detailed two-year survey of plastic rubbish washing out of the bay onto the beaches.

They surveyed more than 300,000 pieces and ranked them into the 20 most common categories.

From this tide line survey, BeachPatrol estimated how many pieces of plastic wash out of the bay in a single year: a whopping 554 million pieces.

Almost all of the trash pieces were basic household items.



**ROSS HEADIFEN**  
3207BeachPatrol

We need to protect the bay for our own pleasure and for the safety of the wildlife in it.

By changing our consumption habits in small ways — refusing straws, using a refillable water bottle — we would make a substantial difference to plastic rubbish in Port Phillip Bay.

We can do it!

## Top 8 categories

- Macroplastics — 51%
  - Microplastics — 25%
  - Food wrappers — 18%
  - Drink bottle labels — 1.3%
  - Cigarette butts — 1.3%
  - Straws — 1%
  - Plastic bags — 1%
  - Drink bottle caps — 1%
- 3207BeachPatrol



Scout celebrating South Melbourne Market's decision to go plastic bag free in April. Picture: Wayne Taylor

## Make the swap

If you must use a **STRAW**, swap out plastic for paper or reusable stainless steel sipping aides.

A vast number of **WATER BOTTLES** end up in landfill or waterways where they hang around for hundreds of years.

It is estimated Australians use as many as 2.8 billion disposable **COFFEE CUPS** and lids each year — that's about 7.6 million a day.

While **PLASTIC BAGS** have been banned at many supermarket check-outs, those used to carry fruit and vegetables in are still readily available. Invest in some reusable produce bags or make your own from a light mesh fabric.

**CLING WRAP** is regularly found washed up along the sand. Get your hands on some beeswax food wraps instead.

Mr Headifen has also created a line of landfill-biodegradable plastic products, including cling wrap and dog poo bags. [biogone.com.au](http://biogone.com.au)

subaru.com.au/why-subaru

Subaru's mission is to bring families closer.  
To reconnect and enjoy the magic of living in the moment.  
To discover more about each other, every day.

Because when we do, the unexpectedly awesome happens.

In our life, every moment is a chance to...

**LAUGH Sing LEARN**  
**SCREAM love SHARE**  
**every moment is a chance to do**

Find your **#OneLittleMoment** each day for 30 days

