

# LET'S TALK LITTER!

If all we ever do is clean up,  
that's all we'll ever do!

**Are you a volunteer who wants to be part of the litter solution?**

**Do you want to learn about what is happening around litter on a local and regional basis?**

**We want to make our efforts count and find ways to work together effectively!**

You are invited to a workshop to have input into the regional litter monitoring project.

This workshop has been jointly funded by the Australian Packaging Covenant and the NSW EPA and is FREE for a community group representative to attend. Workshop places are usually valued at \$250pp.

Numbers are limited so please reserve your place by 4pm Wednesday 15 June by contacting Yvette Barrs, Southern Region Waste Program at [litter@srwp.org.au](mailto:litter@srwp.org.au) or phone 0407 431 746.



**Date:** Monday, 20 June 2016

**Venue:** Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club

**Sessions:**

9.30am-12noon:

Information session

12noon-1pm: Lunch (provided)

1pm-3.30pm:

Practical session

and facilitated discussion

## **HEIDI TAYLOR** | TANGAROA BLUE FOUNDATION CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

Heidi has always been an avid lover of nature and the outdoors, so when she was working as a scuba instructor and started finding rubbish everywhere, her only option was to act. In 2004 Heidi co-founded the Tangaroa Blue Foundation (TBF) as a way of addressing the ever-increasing threat of marine debris in our oceans. It is currently estimated that there are about 18,000 pieces of plastic per square kilometer of ocean, impacting 77 Australian species. Through the TBF Heidi has inspired over 50,000 people to volunteer their time to participate in beach clean-ups all over the country, and helped remove over 5.1 million individual piece of rubbish from the marine environment at over 1,700 different sites across Australia.

Through the TBF Heidi introduced the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI), which is a network of communities, schools, industries, government agencies and individuals focused on reducing the amount of marine debris washing into our oceans. Part of the initiative is an online database that allows people to upload data from their clean-ups with the intent to use that information for Source Reduction Plans (SRPs). As Heidi always says, "If all we do is clean up, that's all we will ever do." Heidi's philosophy is that if we only invest our effort into beach clean-ups, the problem will never go away. By looking at what the rubbish is and logging it, we can use the data to find out where it is coming from and work with relevant partners and stakeholders to prevent the debris from ever entering the marine environment in the first place. This is Heidi's vision.

In the 10 years that TBF has been in operation, there have been over 60 SRPs implemented in Australia, with many success stories in source reduction. This has resulted in government, industry and communities actively seeking Heidi out as an expert on the issue of mitigating marine debris in Australia.

Heidi has been recognized for her amazing work, being awarded the Australian Coastal Custodian of the Year 2005 (Australian Department of Environment) for the Western Australian Marine Debris Project, which is now a national program called AMDI expanding across the country, and was also awarded The Editor's Award for Excellence 2013 (Port Douglas Business Awards).

For more information please visit [www.tangaroablue.org](http://www.tangaroablue.org)

