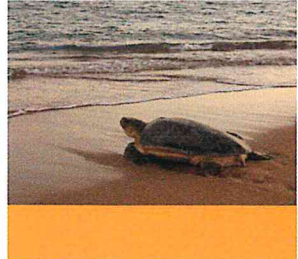


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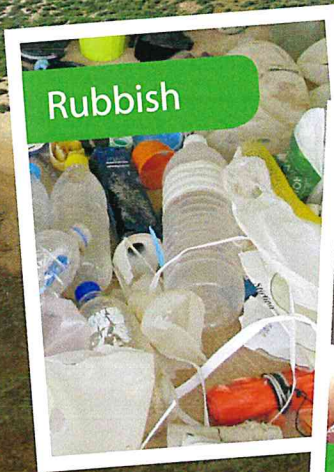
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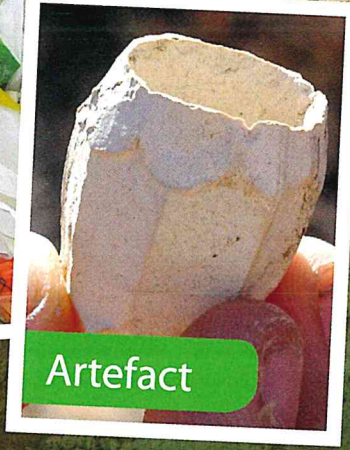
**PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**

Pilbara Inshore Islands

## When is rubbish not rubbish? When it's an historical artefact!



Rubbish



Artefact

It's never good to see rubbish in nature, but sometimes what may look like rubbish is actually an interesting historical artefact.

### Rubbish or artefact?

Aboriginal people have foraged around the Pilbara inshore islands for thousands of years. European navigators including William Dampier and Matthew Flinders, as well as whalers, pearlers, guano miners and turtle hunters are also known to have visited the area. There are several known wrecks and possibly more remain unrecorded.



As a general rule, materials are considered modern and not of archaeological significance if created after 1950.

If in doubt it is always worth contacting the relevant authority, as much of Western Australia's Indigenous, historical and maritime heritage is protected by some form of legislation.

## What items are of historical interest?

Items of historical significance will often look different to ordinary rubbish and may be heavily worn by the elements. Metal objects may be rusted however copper alloys will look very fresh despite their age. Some of the most common pre-1950 items are:



**Bottles** These will tend to be distinctive in colour; either black, olive, green or cobalt tinted.

**Metal** These may include ship parts (often copper alloys or iron), old food cans (iron), metal boxes for matches (rectangular like a small sardine can) and tobacco (round like shoe polish tin).

**Clothing parts** Buttons, buckles or clasps of metal, shell or bone.

## Reporting an historical archaeological object

1. Record the location (with a GPS if possible) and leave the item where you found it.
2. Take photos of the object and the immediate area, using something to provide scale like a pen or a coin, and write a description.
3. Report the find to the Western Australian Museum via email at [reception@museum.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@museum.wa.gov.au) or phone 1300 134 081 or 08 6552 7800 or 1800 023 333 (for WA callers only).

## Please remember to dispose of rubbish responsibly

Discarded items and marine debris can endanger fauna through ingestion or entanglement. Plastic items may perish when exposed to the elements, which can free micro-plastics or leach contaminants into the environment.

For more information contact Parks and Wildlife Service office at Karratha (08) 9182 2000 or Exmouth (08) 9947 8000 [dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)

