

along the beach, giving shore and boat fishers a chance to catch these elusive fish.

For those who want to catch one of these beauties, patience, common sense and restraint are a necessary combination for a successful and enjoyable experience. Not only are they hard to catch, the sudden run of fish may attract a lot of anglers into a relatively small area, all trying their luck at the same time and on the same school. Unfortunately, at peak times and at the start of the season, tempers can fray between shore-based fishers and boat fishers and even within each group. Simple etiquette - such as not casting your line or driving your boat directly into a school of fish, keeping your boat a safe distance from shore fishers, avoiding other people's lines and respecting others' space - goes a long way to ensuring everyone has a good salmon fishing experience. These guidelines will also help everyone get a 'fair go' at catching one.



Early morning salmon fishers in the Capes.

Salmon fishing can also take people to some of the most picturesque places along the coast, including National Parks and Reserves. Sometimes bins are not available, so fishers and coastal visitors will need to secure rubbish from blowing away in a lidded bucket or back pack and after fishing take their rubbish with them. It is encouraging to see that many fishers are doing the right thing by disposing of their rubbish and other material correctly.

Regrettably, there is a minority of fishers who leave fish waste and rubbish around popular fishing spots. Anything made of plastic, especially fishing line, is a serious threat to the environment as it can take decades to break down, entangle wildlife and choke marine creatures. It is important for all users to recognise that the coast is used by the whole community and a tourism draw card so we need to preserve its natural beauty for everyone to enjoy.

## Creature Feature – marine gastropods

By Cindy Bessey, Department of Parks and Wildlife

Gastropods are a class of invertebrate organisms more commonly called snails and slugs. They are characterised by a well-defined head with sensory tentacles, a calcium carbonate shell, and a muscular foot, but some are more slug-like in appearance.

Although gastropods are often found in gardens, ponds, and woodland areas, they are also common in marine

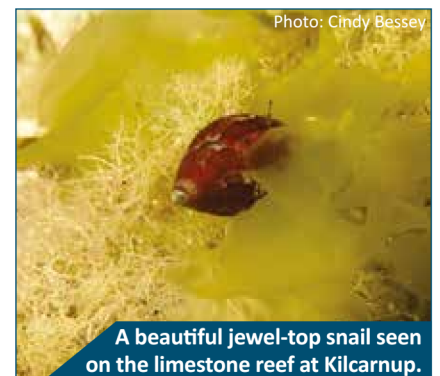
environments, such as the intertidal zone, or even within the ocean at great depths. In fact, over one third of the world's 62,000 described living species of gastropods are found in marine environments. Limpets, abalone, periwinkles, and nudibranchs are all examples of marine gastropods.

The intertidal reefs of the Ngari Capes Marine Park host a plethora of marine gastropods. The granite reefs throughout the marine park are home to thousands of limpets attached securely to the rock surface. Limpets adhere to the rocks by secreting glue-like mucus and even when moving, they can stick to the rocks using suction. Limpets typically live in one place on the rocks, and commonly return home to the same spot after grazing on nearby algae.



Limpets attached to granite rock at Quarry Bay.

In contrast, the limestone reefs throughout the marine park are dominated by dove snails and beautiful jewel-top snails. These snails are small and active, and are commonly found on the fronds of algae.



A beautiful jewel-top snail seen on the limestone reef at Kilcarnup.

More than 50 species of marine gastropods were seen during a recent survey of intertidal reefs throughout the Ngari Capes Marine Park. Some of the more colourful, conspicuous, and charismatic species observed were bubble snails and nudibranchs. The common name of bubble snails comes from the thin bubble-like shell of many species within the Order Cephalaspidea, and the species *Hydatina physis* was seen over sand amongst the granite cobble fields in Flinders Bay.



Bubble snail (*Hydatina physis*) seen amongst granite cobble fields in Flinders Bay.

Nudibranchs lack a shell altogether, except in their larval stage. Their name is derived from the Latin words for 'naked' and 'gills', which describes the cluster of gills usually arranged on the back of the animal. Two nudibranchs from the genus *Jorunna*, which show purple tentacles on the head and exposed gills on the back, were observed on the limestone platforms at Gnarabup.



Nudibranchs (*Jorunna* sp.) seen on limestone platforms at Gnarabup.