



BROKEN BAY
PEARLS OF AUSTRALIA

YOUNG GUARDIANS

VOL. 3
AUTUMN 2022
TERM 1

'OYSTERS ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE OCEANS' – James Brown, April 2021

Broken Bay Pearl Farm pays our respect to the Darkinyung people who are the traditional custodians of the lands and waters we work on and enjoy.

We pay our respect to all Aboriginal peoples, to ancestors, and to the leaders of yesterday, today and tomorrow.



AUTUMN

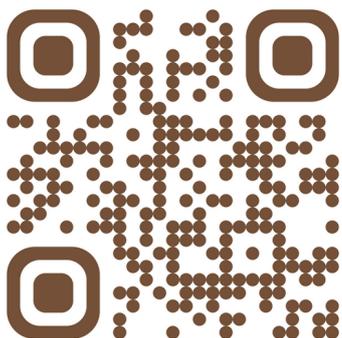
- Bringing baby oyster 'spat' to the farm
- The season of growth

FAMILY VOUCHERS WELCOME Shellar Door and Farm Tours

JOIN US AT THE ONLY PEARL FARM IN NSW

NSW Dine & Discover vouchers and new Parent vouchers can be redeemed at our Shellar Door.

After a tricky time for families impacted by home-based learning due to Covid-19, we are delighted to see families coming to spend a half day with us, learning about how we grow beautiful pearls in our Akoya pearl oysters on our farm tours.



Autumn is an important time at the Broken Bay Pearl Farm.

As we move from the warm seasons of spring and summer towards winter with it's lower water *temperatures* we need to take good care of our Akoya pearl oysters. Our farmers give every single oyster in our farm a very good clean before they settle down for winter in our clean baskets at a special *lease*. This work takes many weeks, so you could say that autumn is 'scrubbing season'.

While we are going through our *livestock* we remove the many *predators* that try to eat our delicious oysters or that cause them harm.

There are octopus, crabs, small fish, different types of worms, *soft corals* and other *shellfish* that we remove.

Fabulous Farming Facts

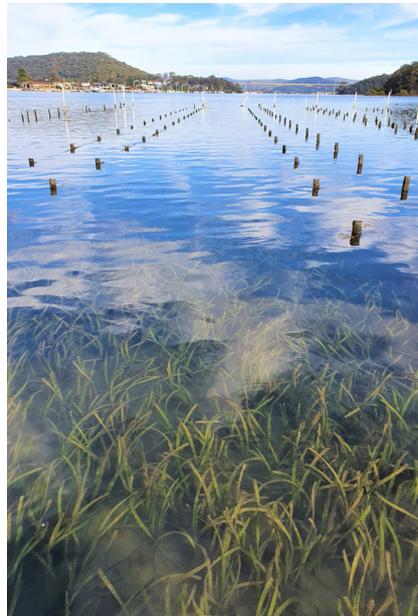
From Broken Bay Pearl Farm

NSW has several species of oyster, they are the '**Guardians of the Oceans**'.

How many **predators** feed on Akoya pearl oysters?

- **Octopus** including **blue-ringed** and **common octopus**. Often a mother blue-ringed octopus will seek **shelter** inside an empty Akoya shell so she can hide her eggs and keep them safe. If she has eaten the oyster it will be her last meal as she won't leave her eggs until the babies hatch.
- **Fingerlings** are tiny baby fish. They can only eat tiny things for their food so they love our baby oyster spat!

- **Flat worms, mudworms**, wriggly red worms, tiny clear worms – there are many types of soft-bodied worms that like to attack our Akoya pearl oysters. If a worm burrows into the shell of the oyster from the outside surface, it can weaken the shell and bore a hole in it. Other 'wafer' worms turn the oyster meat into mush and eat them like stew!



Identifying male and female crabs, with farmer Ashley.

- Look at the **underside** of your crab, there is a flap of shell that is a thin V shape for males or a wide U shape for females. There may be eggs in the female if it is **breeding** time, we leave these in the water to **reproduce**.
- There is a difference in colour between the bright purple and blue shell of a male Blue Swimmer Crab and the softer brown colours of the female. The females can **camouflage** more easily to protect their eggs from predators.



My favourite way to enjoy: Mud Crab & Blue Swimmer Crab

Ashley Farm Production Manager
Broken Bay Pearl Farm

Fisherman
Dad
Enthusiastic cook
Big fan of all sea life



"Crab is one of our favourite foods. Cooking crab is an art – too much and it is hard, too undercooked and it is mushy – but done right it is amazing!"

Throw a little salt and oil into your boiling water and remember to time your cooking, then put the crab under cold running water or it will keep on cooking inside the shell! Crab is a bit fiddly but it is worth it for the sweet meat inside, and it is good for young children because it doesn't have sharp bones in the meat like some fish can. I like to make a dipping sauce of some vinegar, salt and chilli. (Ashley even grows his own chilli!)

NSW is home to a very
special oyster farm



BROKEN BAY
PEARL FARM

Our 'Shellar Door' is open to everyone! School groups welcome.
12 Kowan Road, Mooney Mooney NSW 2083



YOUNG GUARDIANS:

Our marine environment
needs YOU!

SUPER POWERS of PERSUASION

How can primary school
students change their world?

Often the best ideas are the ones kids teach their families. Here are a few you might like to take home, each of them will make a positive difference!

- **VISIT A PEARL FARM**, and bring your family
- **MEASURE FISH & crabs** you catch, check size limits
- **LEAD YOUR FAMILY** away from single use plastics



Broken Bay Pearl Farm invites your school to register for our quarterly newsletter to share with your school community.

We will take you through the seasons and cycles of *sustainable aquaculture* and invite you to learn about *environmental regeneration*, NSW aquaculture and the benefits of enjoying delicious and nutritious local seafood.

Ask your class teacher or school librarian to email hello@brokenbaypearlfarm.com.au

'Oysters are the guardians of the oceans' and young people are the guardians of tomorrow's marine environment!

Use the QR Code on the front page to
download every issue today!

Guardian's Glossary

How to talk like an oyster farmer

Each *Young Guardians* newsletter includes a list of exciting new words to tickle your brains.

Which words do you know?
Can you use a new word this week and teach your family what it means?

Guardian
Temperature
Lease
Livestock
Predator
Soft Coral
Shellfish
Octopus
Shelter
Fingerlings
Underside
Reproduce
Breeding
Camouflage

It is a beautiful planet.

Imagine a world without pollution in our oceans.

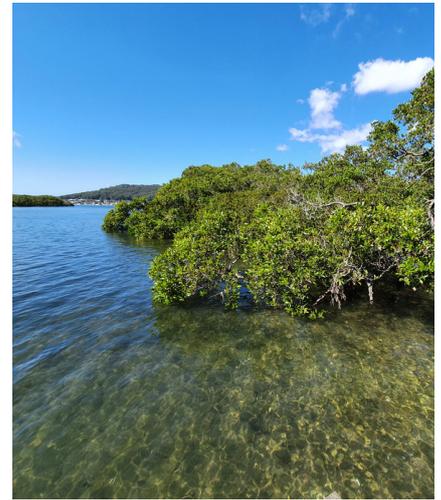
Breathe in air that our seagrasses, mangroves and oceans help to sustain.

Enjoy being near, in and under water in ways that are healthy for you and the marine environment.

Fall in love with the incredible world under the sea by learning more about it.

Protect local waterways from rubbish in stormwater drains by picking up litter.

Look into the water and count the marine animals you see. Can you identify them all, or learn a new species?



Young Guardians, do you have:

- a favourite seafood recipe
- an excellent tip for sustainable fishing
- a photo of local marine life such as a turtle, jellyfish, crab or water bird?

Share your photos on social media with the hashtag **#YoungGuardiansNSW** so the Broken Bay Pearl Farm team can see your great ideas and beautiful photos!



A SPECIAL INVITATION To Year 3 classes across NSW

All NSW Public, Systemic & Independent Primary Schools are welcome.

Broken Bay Pearl Farm has just cleaned and begun to grade our baby 'spat' oysters, which are nearly six months old.

We have enjoyed watching the little pearl oysters grow quickly over summer and we are tucking them away for winter now. You can follow the youngsters with us,

as they grow in our farm.

We're naming baskets of our oysters after year 3 & 4 classes!

Follow the oysters' growth over the next two years as we share photos and updates. You can visit our farm on a school excursion or come for a tour with your family.

Email hello@brokenbaypearlfarm.com.au to participate.