



BROKEN BAY  
PEARLS OF AUSTRALIA

# YOUNG GUARDIANS

VOL. 4  
WINTER 2022  
TERM 2

'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.



## WINTER

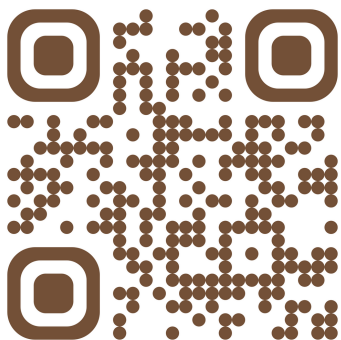
- Clean and care routine
- Tucking oysters away
- Cold waters on the way

## JUNE: The month of the PEARL birthstone for babies born in June

### JOIN US AT THE ONLY PEARL FARM IN NSW

One of the loveliest parts of working at Broken Bay Pearl Farm is when people come in to choose pearls to take home or to give to someone they love.

- Pearls are the only gemstone created by a living creature.
- Now you can take the whole story of your pearl too, with our new Blockchain digital record.



Winter is close at hand as we notice the days getting shorter on sunlight and the nights getting cooler. *Temperatures* can *fluctuate* from one *season* to another, as does the *intensity* of our sunlight. In NSW we have more sunlight in summer and less in winter. Our Akoya pearl oysters will be healthier over winter if we move them closer to the *Tasman Sea* rather than *upriver*, as the ocean temperature is more *stable* and stays a little bit warmer closer to the sea.

Before we move our oysters we clean every single one. This takes months to do but it's the best way to take good care of them. All the *barnacles* and *overcatch* are scrubbed and scraped off, one by one.



## Fabulous Farming Facts

*From Broken Bay Pearl Farm*

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

*Pinctada fucata*, which is also called Akoya pearl oyster, is a species that lives in the marine environment along the NSW coastline.

While Sydney rock oysters are **intertidal** and enjoy spending time both underwater and above the water, our Akoya oysters are **subtidal** and are only happy underwater all the time. When we have big flood events the freshwater from the rain sits on top of the salty water, because saltwater has a greater **density**. Heavy rainfall and flooding can harm all oysters if the **salinity** of their environment falls too low.

### Hungry or thirsty?

Akoya pearl oysters are subtidal which means that their habitat is all under water, so when they eat it is also underwater. The gills fan out like hungry curtains that **filter** the food from the seawater.

### Do you think oysters drink their food or do they eat it?

Oysters feed on different types of algae, they filter up to five litres of seawater per hour, that's a lot of effort for a meal!



### POO and DEAD LEAVES

We took a lovely family on a tour recently and we found ourselves talking about oyster and cow poo. Sometimes we think of waste products from plants and animals being useless or yucky. Some of them are pretty stinky, but we can also think about dead leaves falling to the ground to break down into compost, or manure being used to fertilise poor soil. Nature has a wonderful cycle, what one living thing breathes out is needed by another being to breathe in. Oysters have a very special role in keeping their environment healthy.



## My favourite way to enjoy:

# TAMIKA

*Tourism Manager  
Broken Bay Pearl Farm*

*Nature lover*

*Adventurer*

*Bush walker, camper & 4WDer*

*Music and arts lover*

## Fresh Fish



"I love being back home with my family and fishing together. We caught these two fish when we went for a trawl at sunset with our DIY handlines just wrapped around a couple of planks of wood. After we caught them we ate them straight away, you can't beat that fresh flavour. I love sharing the fun of fishing and the meal with people I love! My little brother crumbed these fish and fried them up for us, I also love eating fish without cooking it sometimes, with a soy and ginger dipping sauce" says Tamika, who is much better at fishing than her brother!



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!

- **WASH CLOTHES** in cold water. They will lose less micro-plastics into the environment.
- **CHOOSE** a car detergent that's good for your grass
- **REMEMBER** to take a re-useable water bottle



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](mailto: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?

Temperature

Fluctuate

Intensity

Tasman Sea

Season

Upriver

Stable

Barnacles

Overcatch

Intertidal

Subtidal

Salinity

Density

Filter

Micro-plastics

Relax with this reflection:

***I can see:*** the sunlight reflecting on the water, the mangrove roots poking up out of the mud.

***I can hear:*** the waves lapping along the sandy shore, the songs of the waterbirds.

***I can feel:*** the mud squishing between my toes, the rain cooling my face.

***I can smell:*** the sweet smells of the sea, the stinky pelican poo.

***I can taste:*** the salt from the spray on my lips, the sweetness of the rain on my skin.



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](mailto:hello@brokenbaypearlfarm.com.au) to participate.