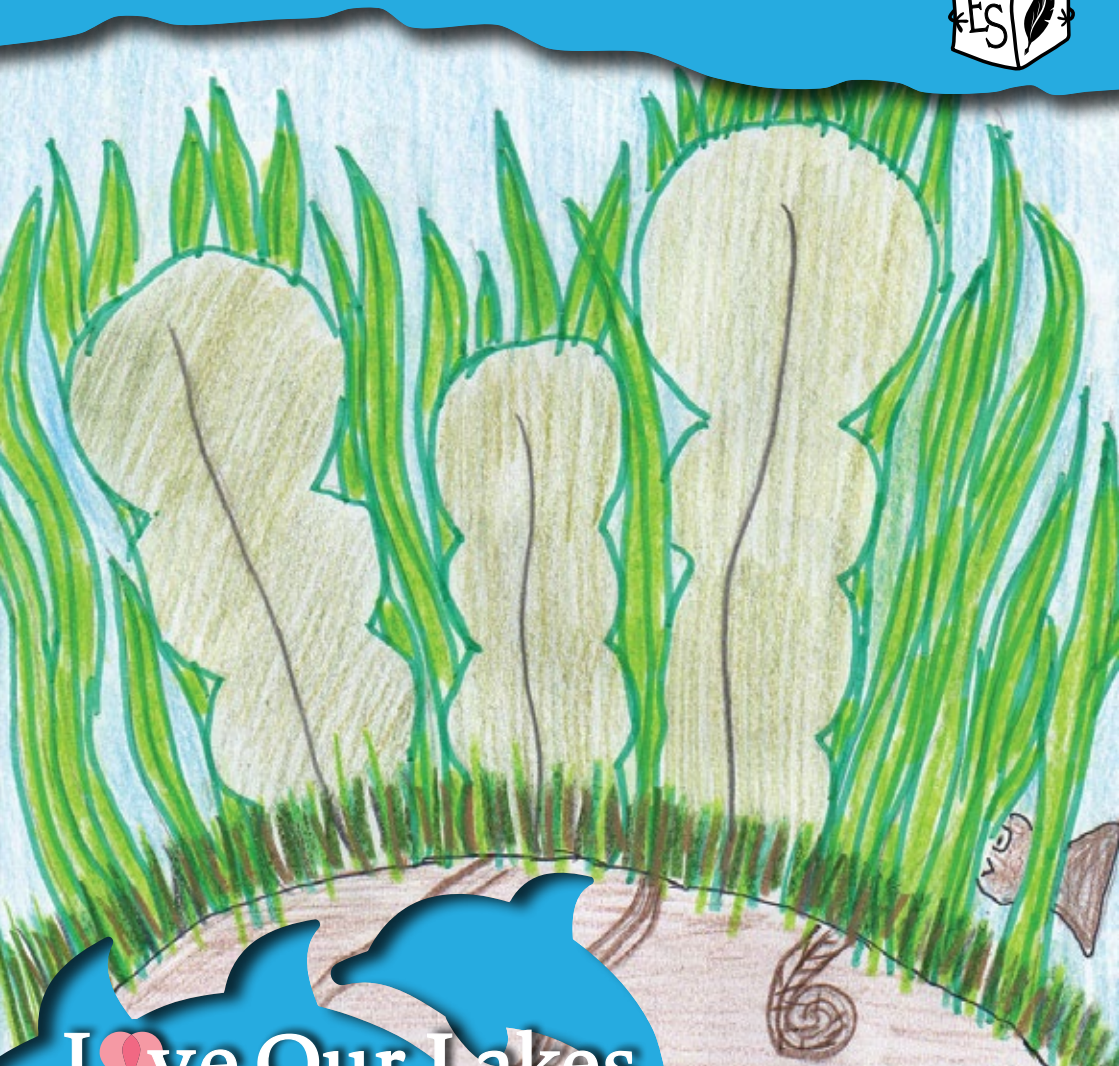


Seagrass is Awesome!

Year 6
Paynesville Primary School



Love Our Lakes

Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee

The Gippsland Lakes are precious; we need to protect them and pass them on to future generations. 'Love our Lakes' is about a shared responsibility to participate in caring for the Lakes and catchment. The Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee has an important role in assisting the Victorian Government and the community to Love Our Lakes. www.loveourlakes.net.au

Victorian Association of Environmental Education

The Victorian Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) is an independent professional association whose purpose has energised educators from all sectors to contribute their time and expertise to ensuring that environmental education and education for sustainability continue to be valued. www.vae.vic.edu.au

James Yeates Printing

James Yeates Printing are a family company and produce commercial printing from simple flyers, business stationery and cards, to books and full color promotional brochures. James Yeates Printing have kindly supported this Enviro-Stories program. www.jamesyeatesprinting.com.au



Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area. www.envirostories.com.au

Seagrass is Awesome!

Authors: Year 6

Teachers: Laura Suckling and Ebony Mooney

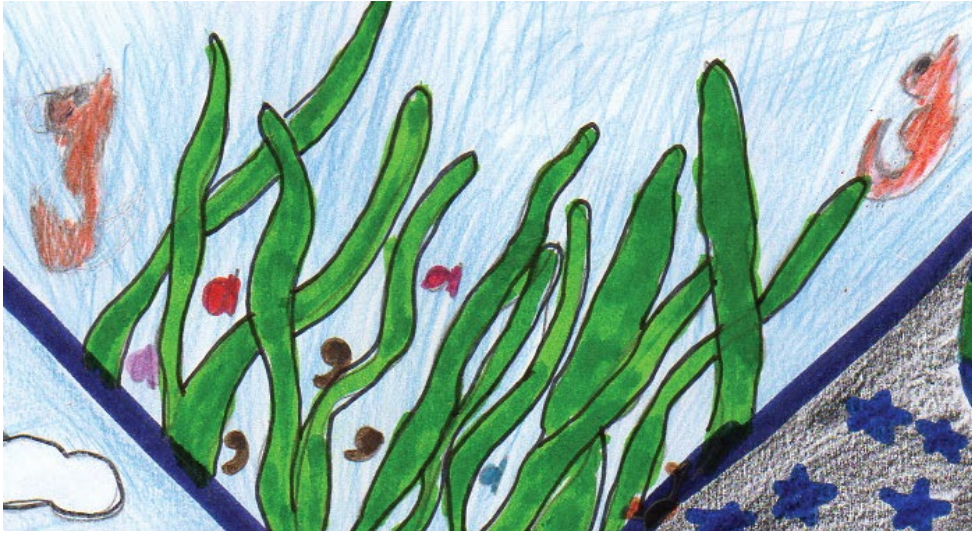
School: Paynesville Primary School



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Hello! We are the students from Paynesville Primary School. This is our book about seagrass and why it is incredibly important to the Gippsland Lakes. Enjoy!



All around Australia there are plants that live in the water as well as on the land.

These plants that live in the water include seagrass, seaweed, kelp, algae and many others.



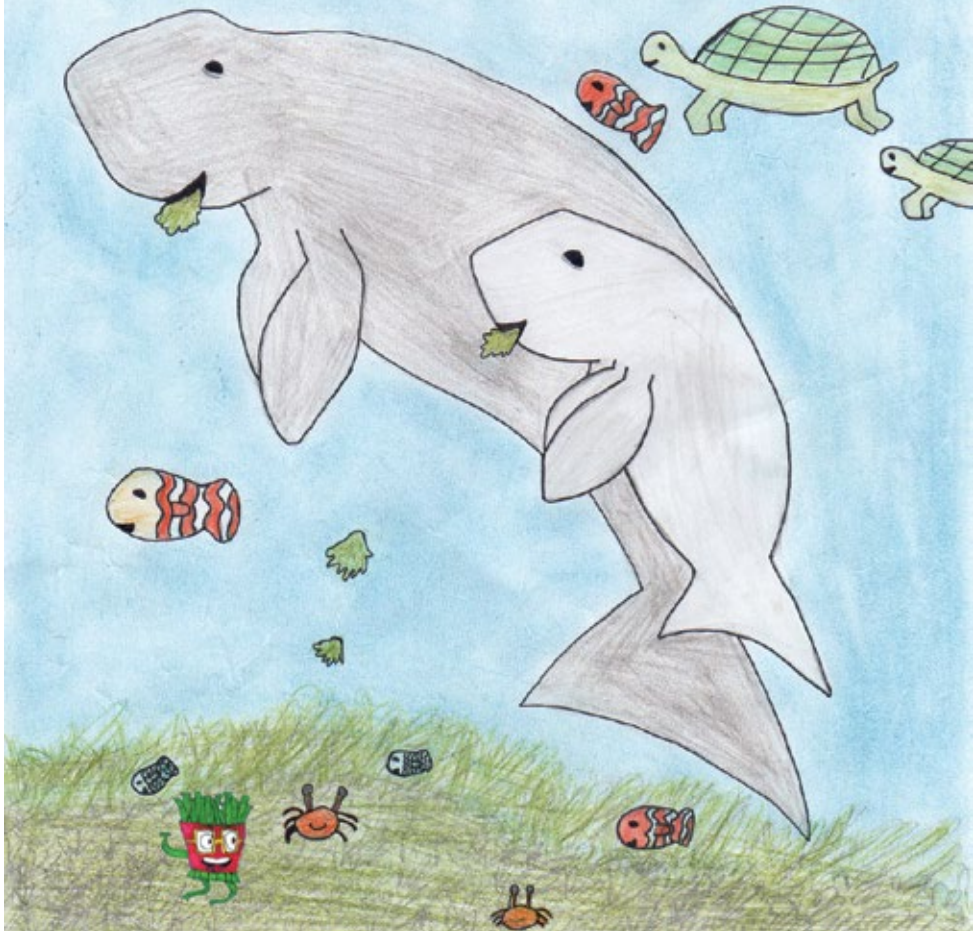


Seagrass is an incredibly important type of aquatic plant. It is found all over Australia.

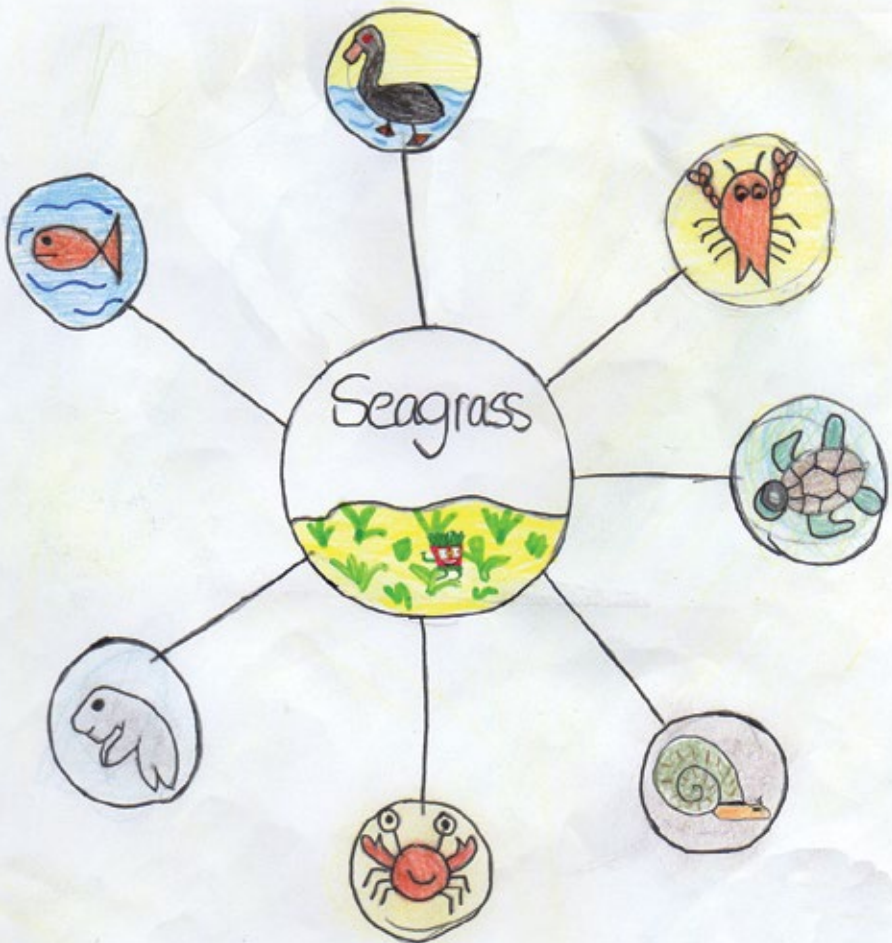
Many of our marine animals eat seagrass, live amongst it or eat the animals and plants that depend on the seagrass.

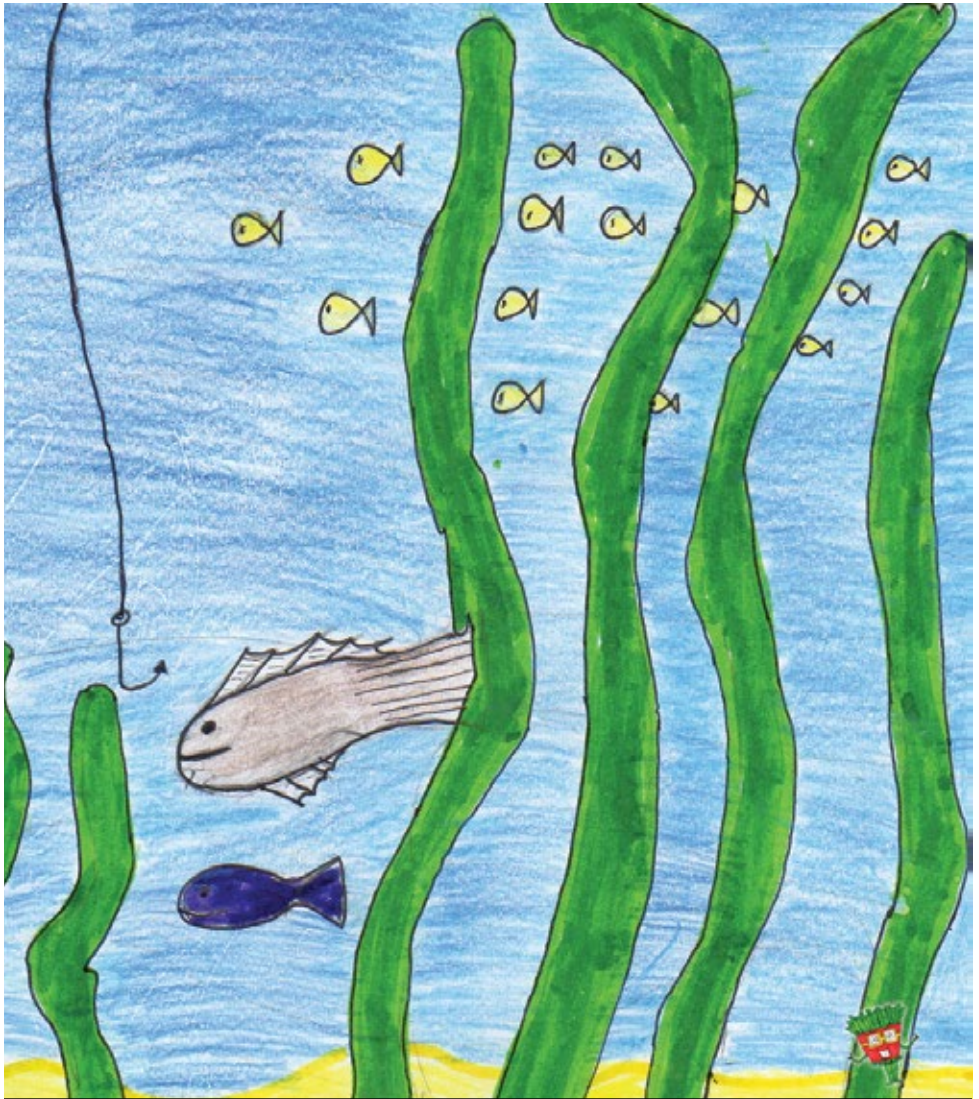
Some animals that need the seagrass are sea urchins, dugongs, green sea turtles, lobsters, some fish, crabs, black swans and other seabirds.

They all depend on seagrass.



This is a food web that shows some of the creatures that eat seagrass.



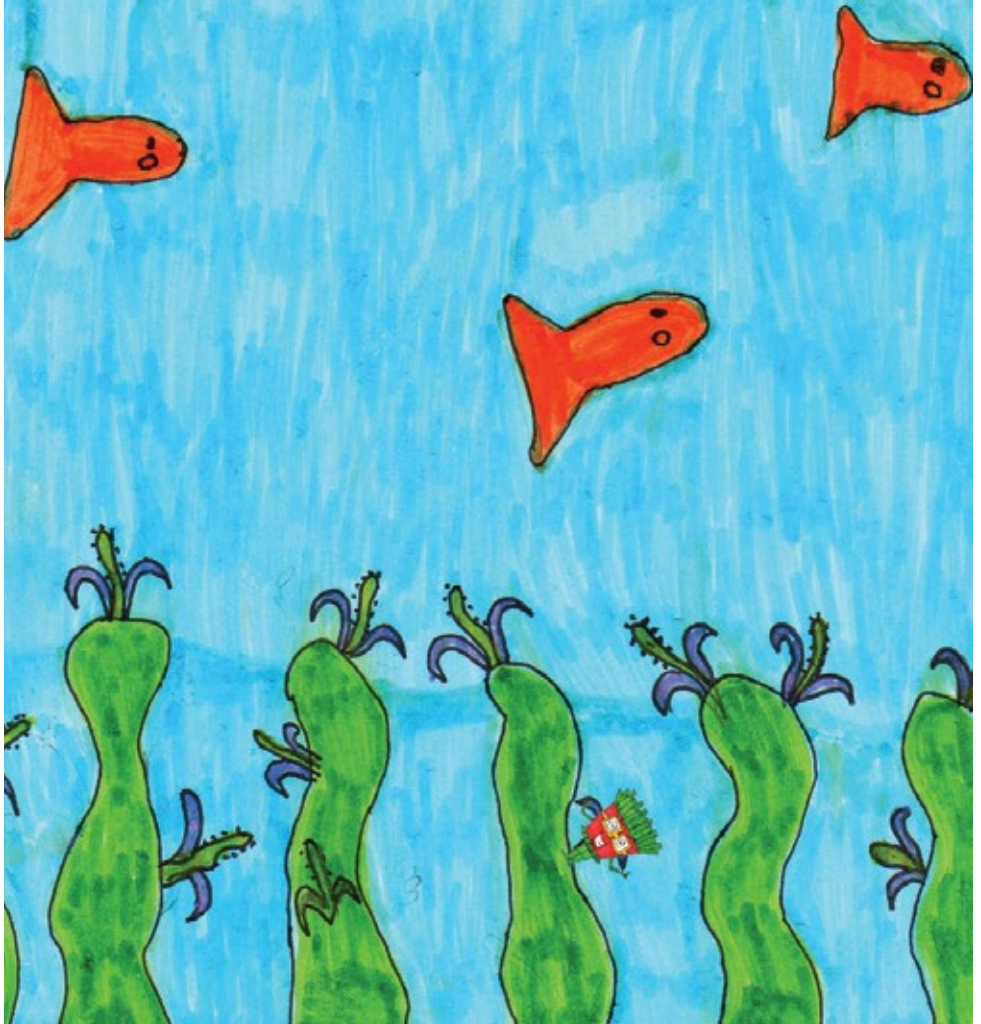


Seagrass grows under the water and provides homes or nursery areas for many creatures.

Some things that live in seagrass are: sea snails, sea worms, crabs, fish, prawns, shrimp, seahorse and even algae.

Seagrass can be found on the coast of every continent except Antarctica.

Just the same as grass on land, seagrasses form vast meadows, grow flowers and seeds, and are home to an unbelievably diverse community of creatures.



Seagrass only grows in shallow water, less than three metres deep, because it needs sunlight just like any other plant.

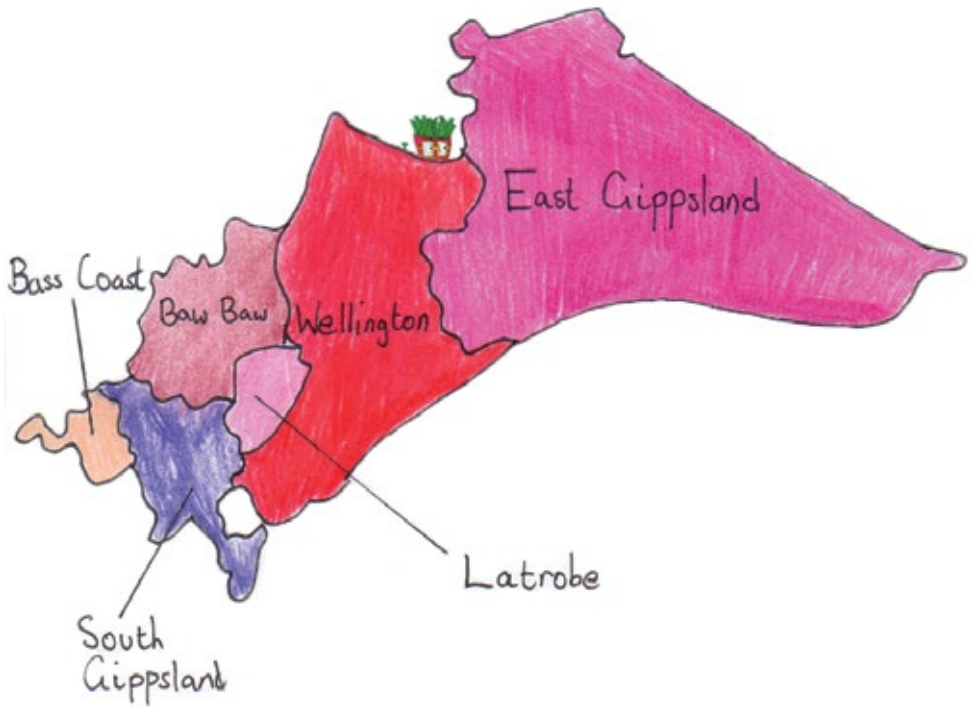
If the water gets dirty and the sunlight can't get through, the seagrass can die.



Seagrass is under threat.

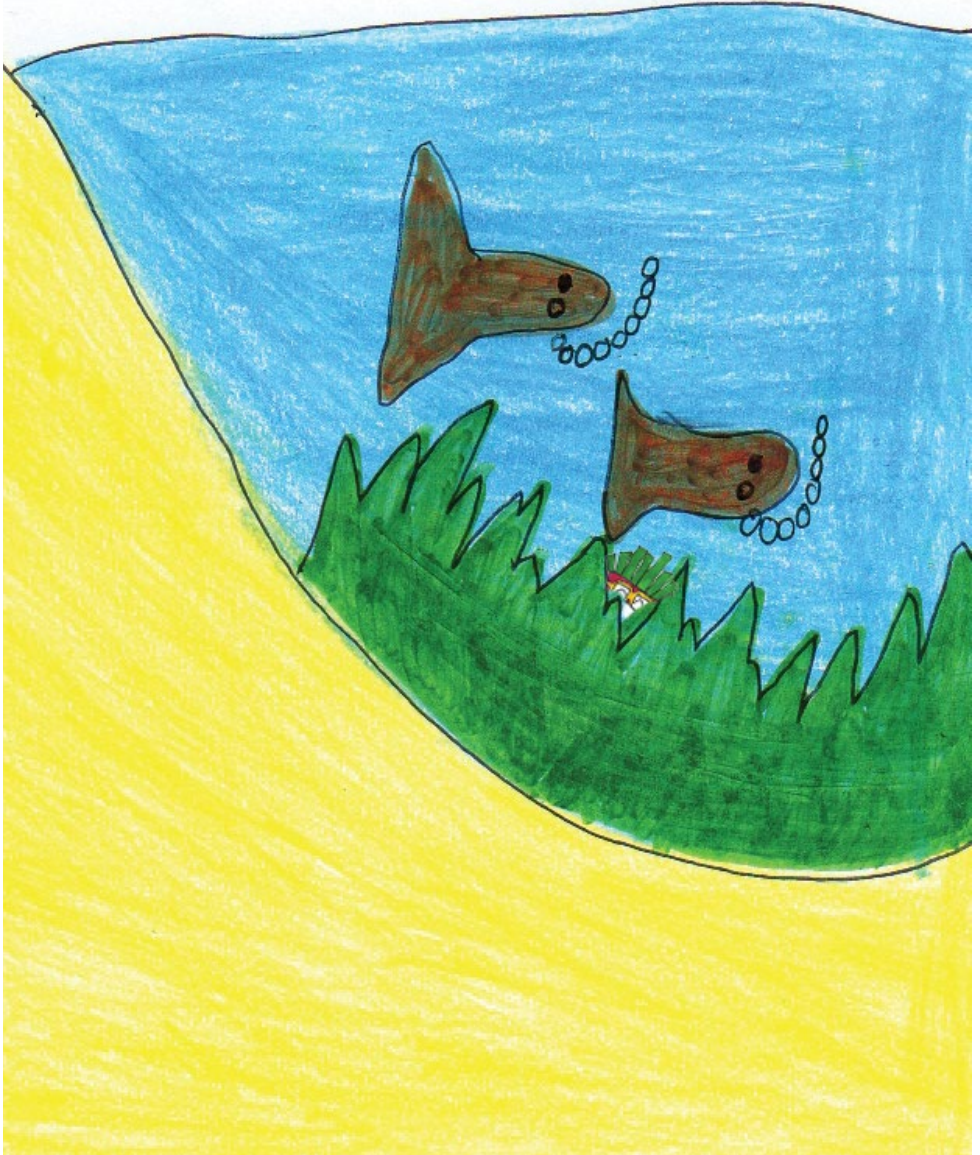
Every hour, two football fields of seagrass disappears throughout the world.





Seagrass is vital to the animals in the Gippsland Lakes helping them survive by providing food, shelter and absorbing nutrients.

For seagrass to survive it requires water to be a certain temperature and depth. The water in the Gippsland Lakes has the correct temperature and depth making it a great place for seagrass to grow.

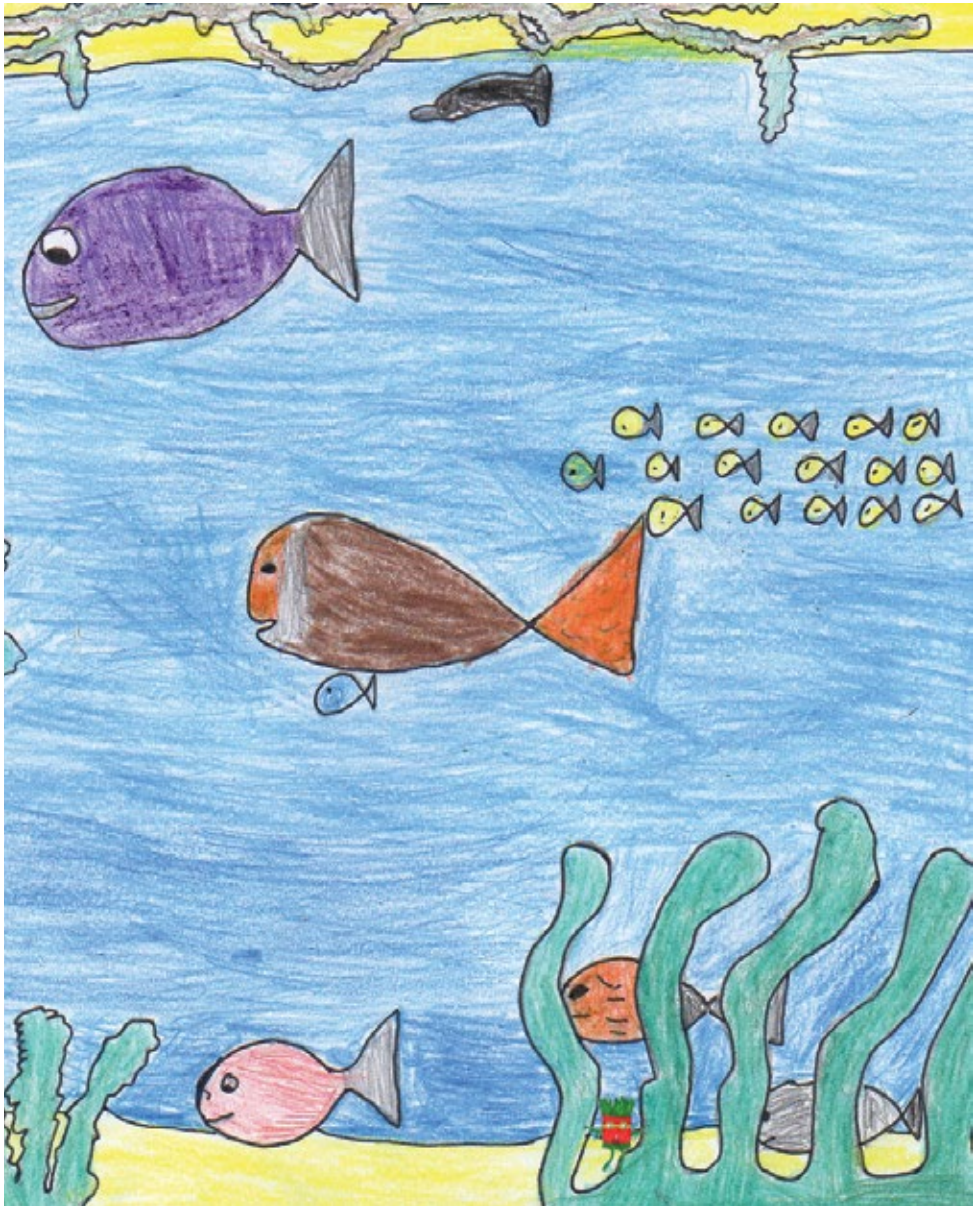




Seagrass grows in fields throughout the Gippsland Lakes and rivers.

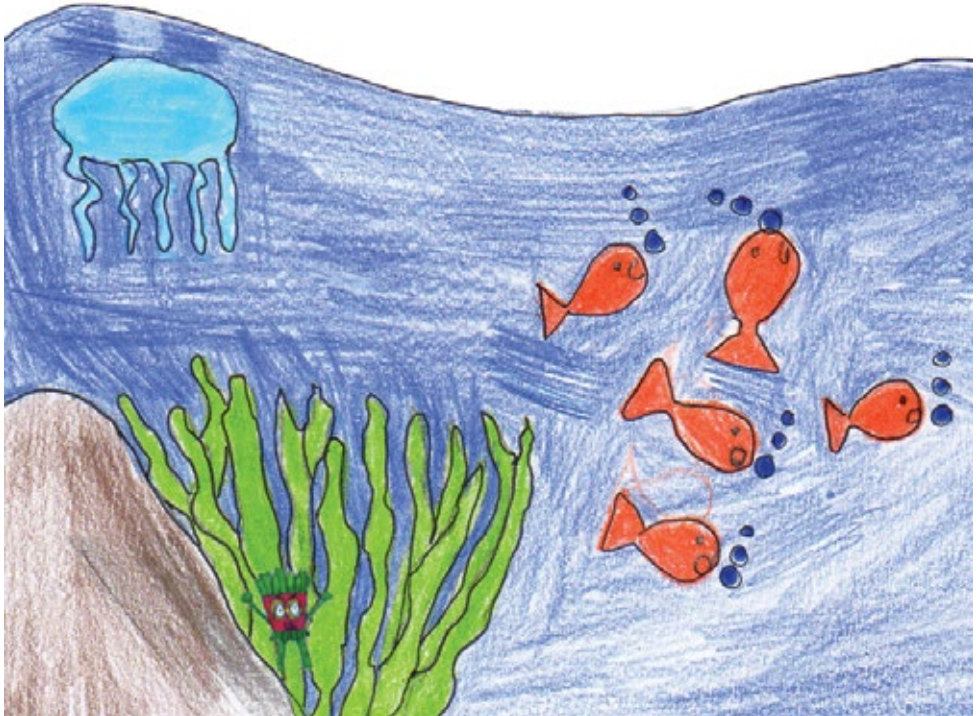
It provides food, homes and shelter for many of the animals that live in the Lakes. Without seagrass many of these creatures would die.

Water quality is very important for seagrass. If the water quality is bad then seagrass will not grow.



Seagrass is the beginning and therefore the most important part of the food chain. The entire underwater ecosystem could collapse if our seagrass disappeared.

We need to make sure we keep the Gippsland Lakes clean to help seagrass survive.



Paynesville Primary School Year 6 students were inspired to write this book by the Nagle College Eco Warriors.

We would like to thank Andrea Savage and her Year 9 Eco Warriors for teaching us about the importance of seagrass to the Gippsland Lakes.

We would also like to thank Amelie Boucher from the East Gippsland Shire Council for organising and supporting these mentoring sessions.



Two books were produced by the Year 6 Paynesville students as part of the "Love Our Lakes" program. The other book "Seagrass Superdude" can be found in the Enviro-Stories 'Short Stories' collection.

www.envirostories.com.au/stories/short-stories/



2014 Year 6

Paynesville Primary School

Love Our Lakes

www.loveourlakes.net.au

