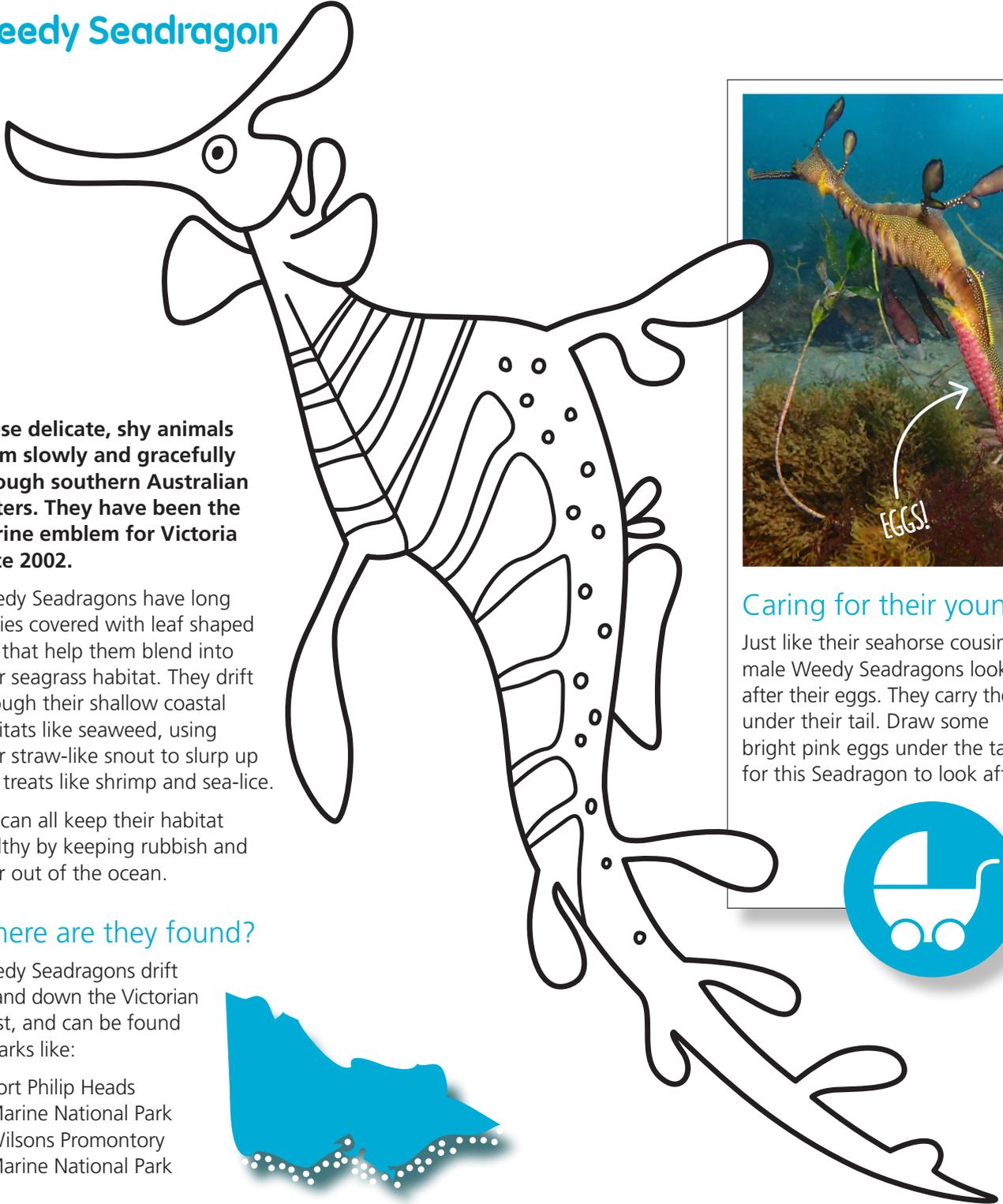


JUNIOR RANGERS



Weedy Seadragon



These delicate, shy animals swim slowly and gracefully through southern Australian waters. They have been the marine emblem for Victoria since 2002.

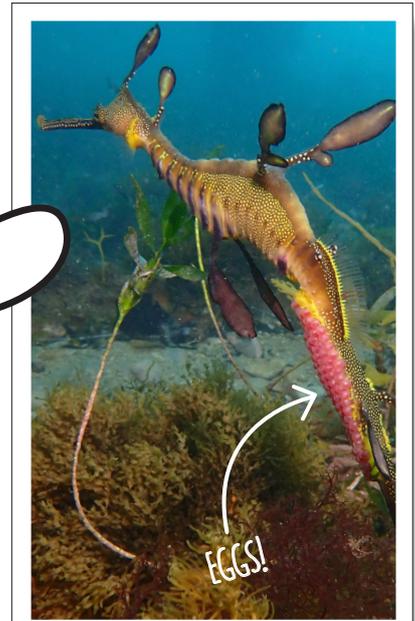
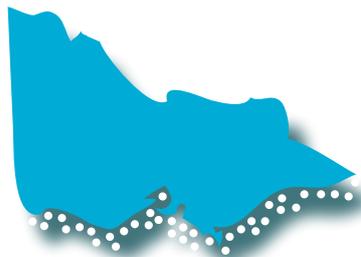
Weedy Seadragons have long bodies covered with leaf shaped fins that help them blend into their seagrass habitat. They drift through their shallow coastal habitats like seaweed, using their straw-like snout to slurp up tiny treats like shrimp and sea-lice.

We can all keep their habitat healthy by keeping rubbish and litter out of the ocean.

Where are they found?

Weedy Seadragons drift up and down the Victorian coast, and can be found in parks like:

- Port Philip Heads Marine National Park
- Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park

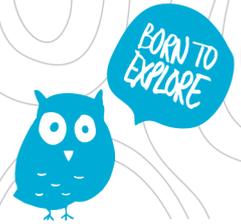


Caring for their young

Just like their seahorse cousins, male Weedy Seadragons look after their eggs. They carry them under their tail. Draw some bright pink eggs under the tail for this Seadragon to look after.



JUNIOR RANGERS



Camouflage game

Seadragons use camouflage to blend into their surroundings. Weedy Seadragons have special camouflage that makes it look like they're wearing a seaweed costume. This is especially useful when hiding from predators among strands of seaweed and in seagrass meadows. Here's a camouflage game to try out with friends or family.

What you will need:

- Coloured pens, pencils or paint.
- A back garden or small space (10m x 10m) in a local park.
- 2 or more players

What to do:

- Colour and cut out our sea shapes on the activity sheet.
- Whilst Player 2 isn't looking, Player 1 can try to place the shapes in surroundings that match its colour. For example, you could put a green shape in some grass or a brown shape against a brick wall.
- Player 2 then has 2 minutes to try and find all the shapes. They earn a point for every shape they find. Once the game is completed, swap over. Repeat for more players.

Were some colours easier to find than others? Why was that? Take a photo of you playing your game and email us with your answers at juniorrangers@parks.vic.gov.au.

Remember to collect up all the shapes when you have finished and take them home.

What can you do to help?

Water pollution is a big threat to our marine life including our Weedy Seadragons. Remember that most drains eventually lead to the sea, so remind grown-ups to go eco-friendly when using detergents around the house. And next time you're at the beach, why not take a bag and do a litter pick to keep our oceans beautiful.

