

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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April 9, 2017

Beach Patrol litter count points to bay choking on plastic pollution

A yearlong daily count of plastic littering a 35m coastal stretch of Port Phillip Bay in Melbourne shows that the bay is in deep trouble. Dr. Ross Headifen, who heads local anti-litter group [Beach Patrol](#), sent *Litterland* the survey results documenting the litter count. Shown at right, the figures allowed him to extrapolate and calculate how many pieces and types of litter would amass in the entire bay in one year and what that level of littering means to the health of the water. For example, more than 110.6 million bits of plastic larger than 5 cm and 115.2 million bits sized from 5mm - 5cm comprise 60.4 percent of plastic choking the bay. Microplastics add another 14.6 percent. According to Melbourne Water, litter enough to fill 30,000 wheelie bins was hauled out of waterways in fiscal year 2015-16.

Plastic survey over 35 m for 365 Days			
Category	35 m Actual count	Percentage	Model Estimate for all Bay numbers per an.
Plastic bits>5cm*	37,341	29.6%	110,631,205
Plastic 5mm<5cm	38,890	30.8%	115,220,470
Micro <5 mm	18,483	14.6%	54,760,091
Plastic Bags	1,192	0.9%	3,531,571
Plastic Bait Bags	110	0.1%	325,900
Straws	1434	1.1%	4,248,551
Bottle Tops	1152	0.9%	3,413,062
Bottles/Cans	217	0.2%	642,912
Bottle Labels	997	0.8%	2,953,839
Wrappers	14,404	11.4%	42,675,126
Food Containers	771	0.6%	2,284,263
Balloons & B'stri	743	0.6%	2,201,306
Cig Butts	2234	1.8%	6,618,733
Polystyrene	8311	6.6%	24,623,228
Syringe	20	0.02%	59,255
Total Bits	126,295	100%	374,189,513

[Bakery's balloon release for free food falls flat](#)

Pound Bakery released 500 balloons Friday above Dover, offering a free sandwich to anyone who finds one. Critters mistake a littered balloon for food, ingest it and get ill or die.

[San Francisco's embarrassment](#)

California's trendy, hip and green-minded reputation took a hit in the aftermath of a public day last weekend at the 16-acre Delores Park in San Francisco's Mission District. Crowds of sun worshippers left behind so much garbage that it took parks and recreation employees 44 hours to clean it all up. They filled 460 bags with litter. Meanwhile the city has launched ["Yes We Can"](#), a bin installation trial which is to be evaluated using 311 reporting technology.



DID YOU KNOW?

The above swan is nesting in litter, a disturbing [sight](#) on Leeds and Liverpool Canal in Blackpool, UK.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (APR 2 - 9)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Woman called a "skankhole" loses court case (4/4)

A woman lost her €75,000 defamation of character lawsuit against a Dublin bus company and a bus driver who called her a "f**king skankhole" after she littered prior to boarding his bus, then ignored his request to pick up. The judge praised the driver for scolding her.

Licenses suspended in Massachusetts (4/7)

Littering from your vehicle costs more than money in Massachusetts. Drivers caught throwing waste from a vehicle can lose their license for up to seven days.

KAB sees results from funding local efforts (4/4)

On average, 60 percent fewer cigarette butts are littered in places that implement Keep America Beautiful's butt litter prevention formula, the agency said this week.

Tiger reserve has rules in place (4/3)

India's Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve, the world's largest sanctuary for tigers, has just made it mandatory for every visitor to bring a litter bag for carrying home their waste items. It will be verified upon entry and exit.

The case of the spilled pasta salad (4/6)

Simon Fillies, 53, was in Canterbury Magistrates Court accused of littering his pasta salad in a gutter in Dover, UK. He claimed he was feeding the birds. The judge said the man's excuse failed to explain away the plastic fork found at the scene. The man was fined £230.