

Porci's Ocean Patrol

Series 1: Episode 7 – Facts for Students

Kids Sports on Country

- Parntu was a game played by Aboriginal kids thousands of years ago.
- Parntu is a ball made from possum skin and filled with charcoal, dry grass and emu feathers. The Kurna names for these are Pidna (charcoal), Tutha (dry grass) and Kardi wapa (emu feathers).
- Aboriginal people used all natural materials to make toys and other tools, so that nothing goes to waste.
- The game is a bit like Mark's Up. The aim of the game is to catch the ball once someone has kicked it into the air.
- You need at least 3 players, and two teams; the kickers and the markers. The game was played on flat, grassy ground.
- The kicker kicks the Parntu high into the air and the person that catches it becomes the new kicker. If the ball hits the ground, it goes back to the kicker for another try.

Plastic Breakdown

- If plastic is left in the environment, it never really disappears, it breaks up into tiny pieces called microplastics instead.
- These small pieces can be accidentally eaten by both small and big sea animals like zooplankton or whales.
- Plastic straws can hold their shape for 200 years! Don't forget to bring your reusable straw next time you go out.
- Plastic bottles and nappies are the marathon runners of the pollution Olympics, lasting 450 to 500 years.
- If plastic is thicker, stronger or mixed with other materials, it can take longer to break up.
- We can battle the plastic problem by making some sustainable swaps at home or when we are out.

- Grab a bamboo toothbrush next time instead of a plastic one. The handles of these bamboo toothbrushes can be composted or used as labels in your veggie garden.
- Every single small action, like recycling our hard plastics and saying no to plastic bags, adds up to make a big difference in protecting our planet.
- If there are no recycling bins around you, take your plastic bottles home to recycle.

Porcupinefish

- The scientific name for a Porcupinefish is 'Diodon nichthemerus'. They can also be called a Globefish.
- Porcupinefish have flat teeth shaped a bit like a parrots beak. This means they can crunch through the shells of clams, snails, crabs and sea urchins to get their food.
- Porcupinefish live all along Southern Australia in the Great Southern Reef, mostly in seagrass beds, shallow reefs or under jetties.
- When they feel scared, these fish can make themselves bigger by swallowing water or air. This means that fewer predators will try and eat them.
- They not only look bigger when puffed up, but also spikier. Their sharp spines come out to protect themselves from predators.
- Porcupinefish are nocturnal, using their big eyes to help them see at nighttime, and blowing jets of water at the sand to uncover clams and snails.
- Their round body shape means they can't swim very fast.
- Never eat a porcupinefish! If you catch one while fishing, always carefully put them back in the water. They have poison inside called tetrodotoxin that can be dangerous if eaten.
- If you see one of these fish on the beach, be sure to keep your dogs away.