

# When balloons fly, seabirds die.

You can be part of the solution.  
Blow bubbles not balloons.



**ZOOS**  
VICTORIA  
*Fighting Extinction*

*Phillip Island*  
**NATURE  
PARKS**



# Blow bubbles not balloons.

## Promise to blow bubbles instead of balloons at your next outdoor event and help save seabirds.

When marking a special occasion, we often think of using balloons. However, balloons and their attachments can escape, ending up in oceans or waterways and causing harm to wildlife.

Balloons floating on the ocean's surface can resemble squid or jellyfish, and seabirds like Flesh-footed Shearwaters can mistake them as food and feed them to their chicks.

When ingested, balloons are more likely to cause death in seabirds than any other type of litter.<sup>1</sup>

**Balloons can be fun. But they don't belong outside.**

## Measuring our impact

With help from our partners at Phillip Island Nature Parks, we monitor the prevalence of balloons and their attachments on beaches and in the ocean over time.

In 2018-2019, Phillip Island Nature Parks measured 63% fewer balloons and balloon clips & strings on the island's beaches than in the previous year. This is great progress.

And remember, it is illegal to deliberately release balloons into the environment in many parts of Australia, including in the state of Victoria.

This includes latex balloons that are marketed as 'biodegradable'.<sup>2</sup>

## You can be part of the solution

Go to [zoo.org.au/balloons](https://zoo.org.au/balloons) and join hundreds of thousands people, schools, councils and businesses who have promised to blow bubbles instead of balloons outdoors and help keep seabirds safe.



A young Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Ardenna carneipes*) on Lord Howe Island.



Non-stop bubble fun! Re-fill any bubble bottles with our easy at home recipe on the website.

## More information

[zoo.org.au/balloons](https://zoo.org.au/balloons)   [takeaction@zoo.org.au](mailto:takeaction@zoo.org.au)

<sup>1</sup> Seabirds are up to 32 times more likely to die when they swallow balloons than any form of hard plastic (Roman, Hardesty, Hindell and Wilcox, 2019).  
<sup>2</sup> Scientists tested latex balloons in freshwater, saltwater and compost and found that after 4 months, they did not meaningfully biodegrade (Gilmour and Lavers, 2021).