

Blair

The Loggerhead Turtle



Written & Illustrated by Kirsty Esson



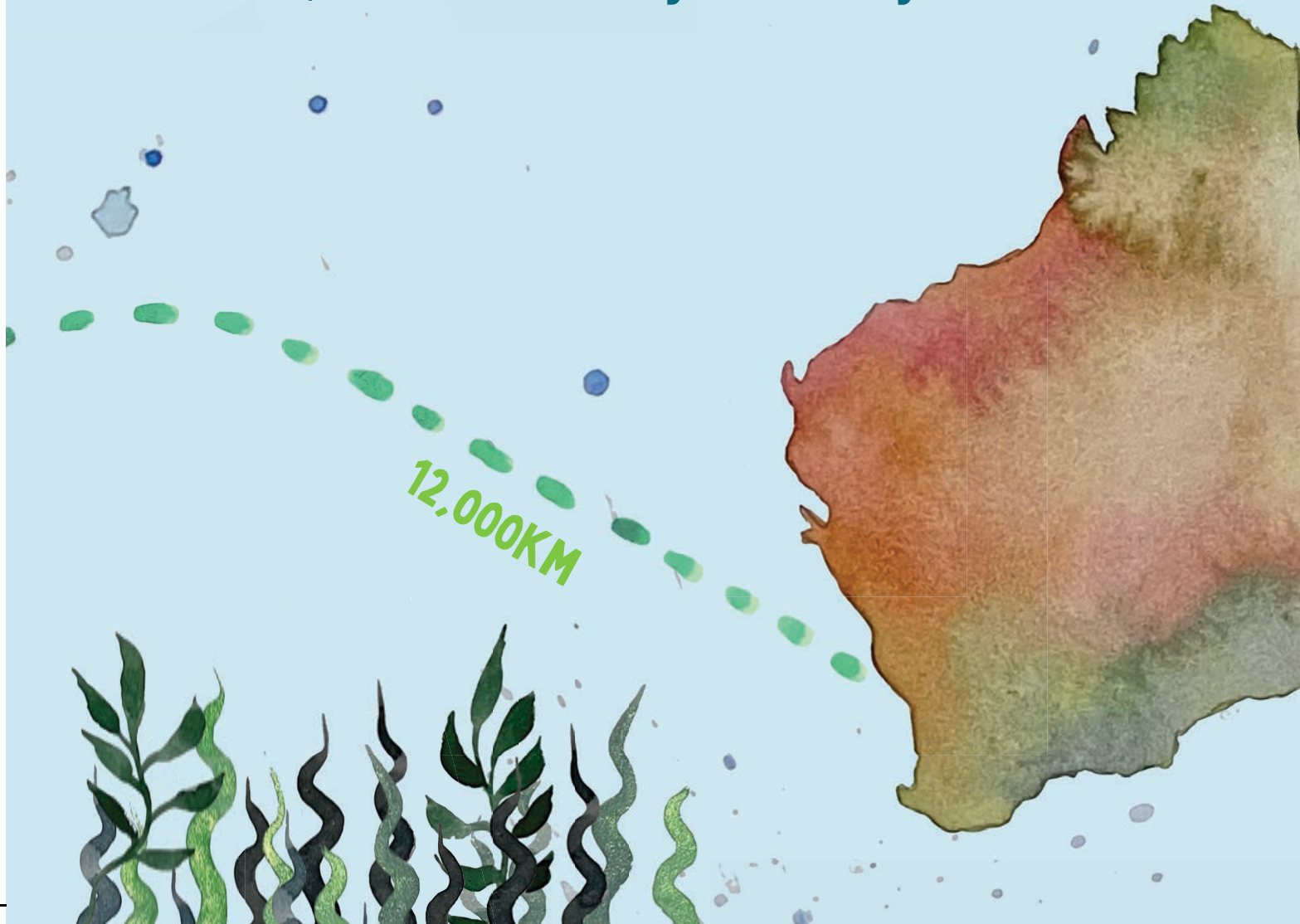
Based on a true story.



Blair is a Loggerhead Turtle.
She lives in waters along the coast of
Australia and the South Pacific.

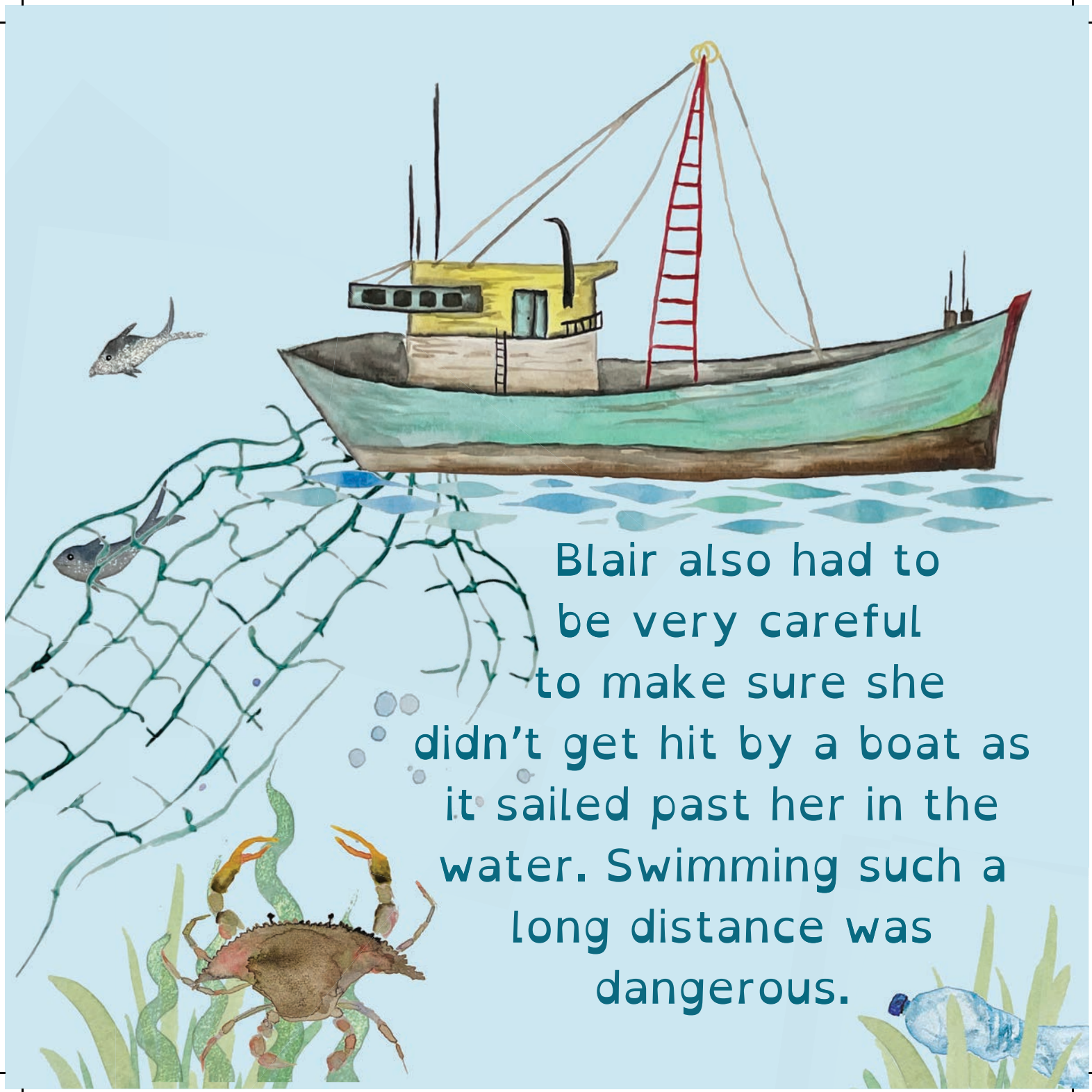


Like other Loggerhead Turtles,
Blair loves to travel. She would
sometimes swim as far as
12,000km every three years!

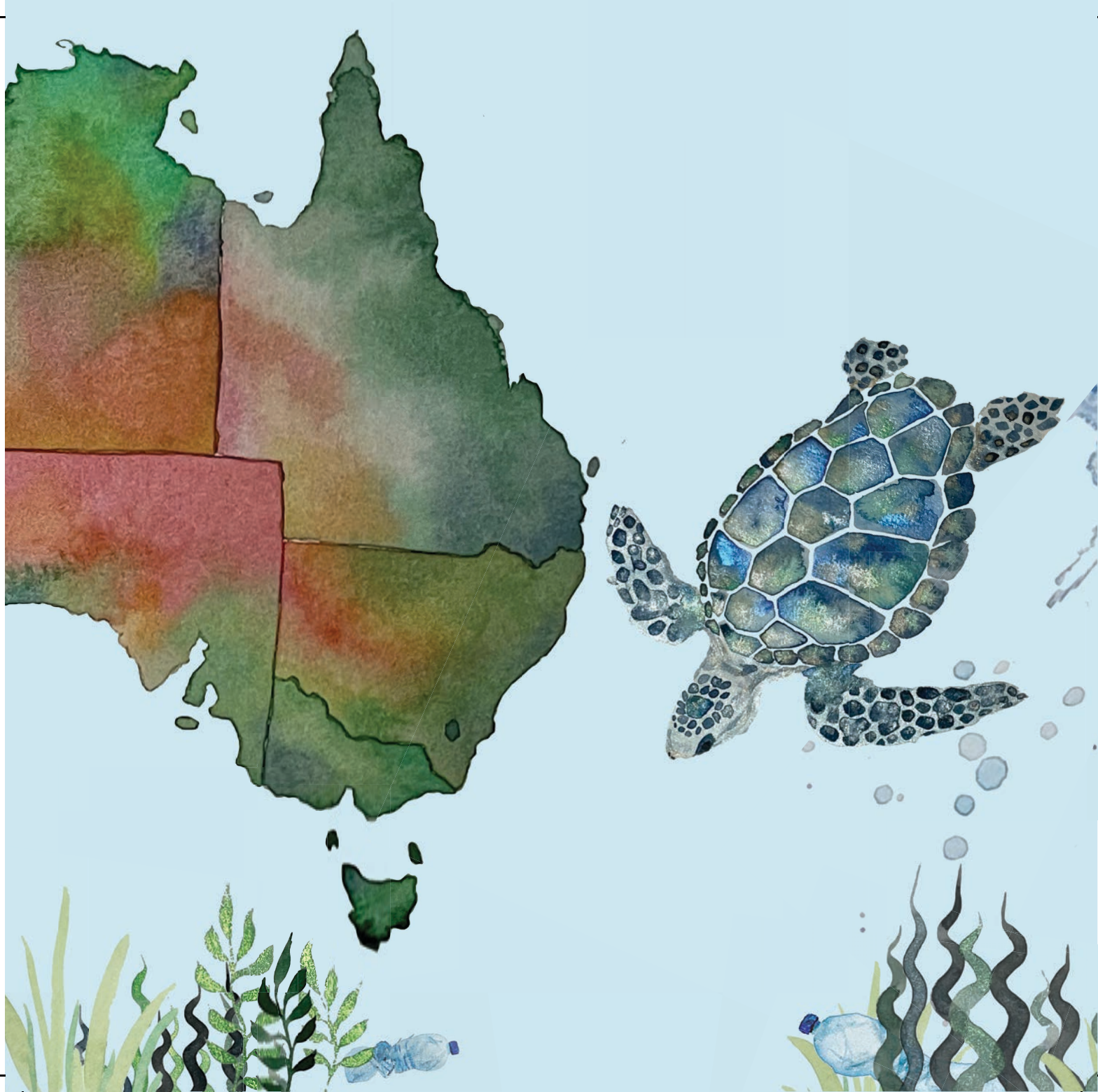


With cities growing all along the coast it can be very hard to find food. And of course, there are other dangers too, like fishing nets and plastic in the ocean.



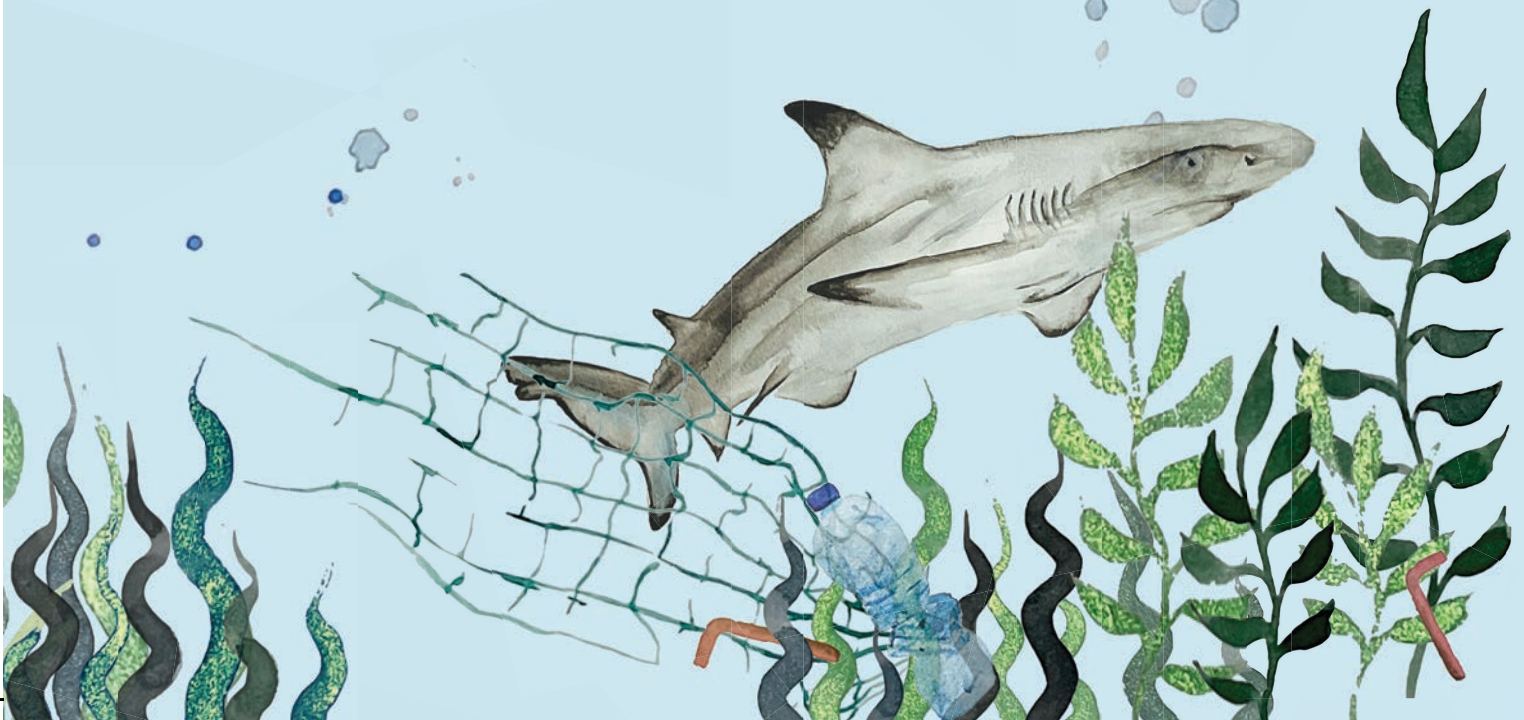


Blair also had to be very careful to make sure she didn't get hit by a boat as it sailed past her in the water. Swimming such a long distance was dangerous.



In 2013 Blair was travelling down to the south of Australia, but when she got to Blairgowrie, Melbourne, she was exhausted, and hadn't been able to find enough food.

Blair needed help!



The team at SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium LOVE turtles and had helped rescue and rehabilitate 12 turtles already.



Blair didn't know it yet, but she was lucky number 13.

She was given a safe place to rest and lots of food. And the SEA LIFE vet made sure to check on her. The whole team loved her very much and helped her grow and get strong again.



Blair lived at SEA LIFE Melbourne
Aquarium for two years.



Families would come to the
aquarium to visit Blair and watch
her swim past the tank windows in
her 2.2 million litre Oceanarium.
It was BIG!





Some of her visitors were so generous, they would leave coins during their visit which helped the aquarium team to buy an amazing satellite tag that Blair would get to wear when she was released.



After two years living with the SEA LIFE Melbourne team, Blair had grown from just 4.5kgs to a healthy 25kg.

And now that she had her special tag on her back, she felt like a superhero and was ready to head back into the ocean.

PING!



PING!



Now, every time Blair surfaces to take a breath, her satellite tag pings her location back to her friends at SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium, so they can keep track of her on her travels, and know she is doing ok.

She was so healthy that in the first six months after her release, Blair swam half way around Australia!

PING!
PING!



She first made a visit to
Tasmania, before making the
long journey all the way to
Western Australia.

The SEA LIFE team were
so proud of her!

PING!

PING!





Blair being cared for at SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium



Funded through generous donations to registered charity the SEA LIFE Trust ANZ, the tag fitted to Blair now provides important data which aids in the further understanding of Sea Turtle's natural behavior in the wild.



Blair being released from a beach off Gabo Island in January 2016



Map of Blair's travels after she was released



All profits from the sale of this book will be donated to registered charity the SEA LIFE Trust, which will in turn put the funds to use on conservation campaigns, scientific research & inspiring education - all in the name of these majestic sea creatures who are facing very real threats in the wild.

For more information visit: www.visitsealife.com/melbourne

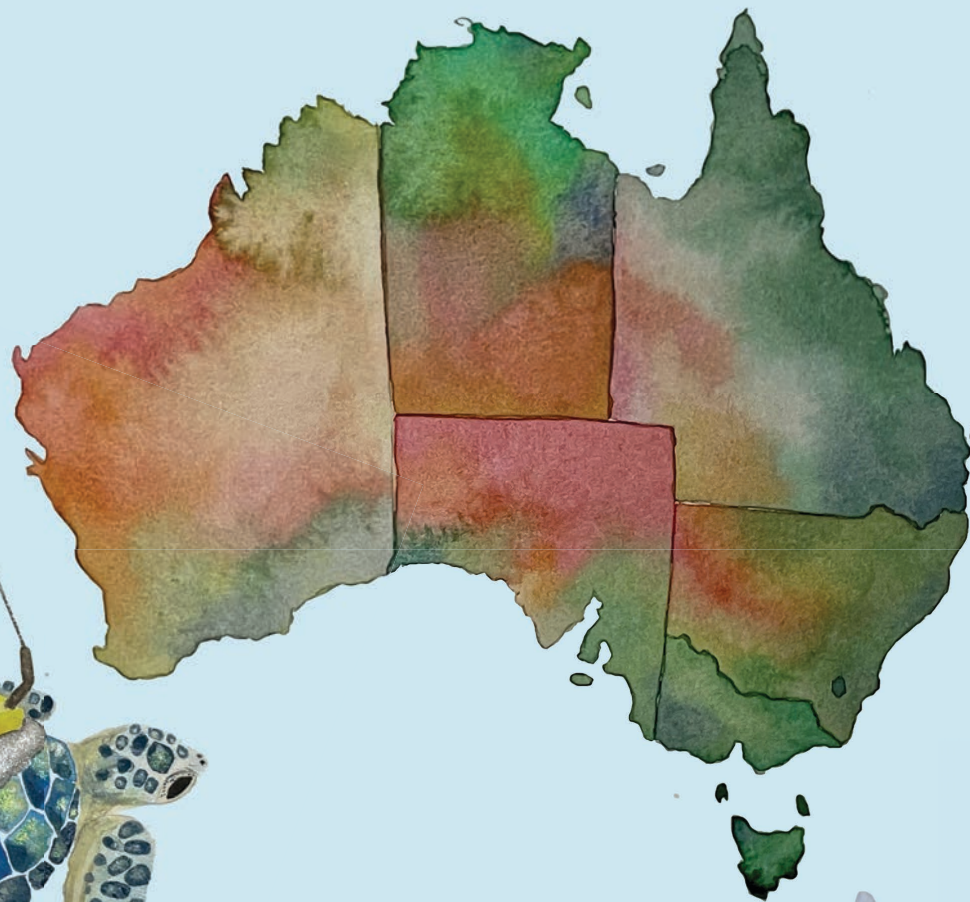
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@Kirsty_esson_art

PING!
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