

*Many requests to extend the seagrass guides series to southern temperate species were made following the success of A guide to the tropical seagrasses of the Indo-West Pacific and encouraged this endeavour. On embarking on this task, the three of us, Kathryn, Paul and I, concentrated on the seagrasses of southern Australia. However, we quickly realised that adding the seagrasses of New Zealand, South America and southern Africa wouldn't expand things dramatically, so we included them. We did not envisage some of the hurdles we would need to overcome: the birth of baby Pearl, significant illness, several job changes including moving interstate, significant taxonomic debate and changes in our graphic design and technical support. Despite this, we are proud of the significant advance this guide provides to anyone wanting to look at and understand more about the seagrasses from the southern temperate coastal marine ecosystems of the world.*

*Taxonomy is a living, dynamic field of study, not without its points of conflict, particularly for seagrasses. There are several places in this guide where I have taken an alternate view to other taxonomic works with respect to current species concepts. I take full responsibility for these decisions and try to explain simply the rationale and encourage users of this guide to a greater level of awareness.*

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*Michelle Waycott, Adelaide, SA, Australia, May 2013*