

Ben's Bites!

Ambassadors spreading the stories of our coast!



What on earth!

There have been some strange things going on around our coast over the past few months. Tropical turtles, antarctic seals, oceanic sunfish. WHAT NEXT!

If you see, or hear of, anything interesting, weird or just plain strange turning up along our coast, make sure to take some pictures and let me know!

Ambassador awards

Be sure to get your entries in for the *'i sea, i care'* Ambassador awards. All the details are on the back of this newsletter.

Stop Press

Killer whales have just been reported in Port Phillip. They were seen as far up as Mt Eliza! Stay tuned.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter

 Ben

Strange visitorsTurtles

Green sea turtles are usually found in tropical and sub-tropical oceans, however, someone seems to have forgotten to tell that to the two turtles that washed ashore at Mt Martha and Dromana on Saturday, 21st August.

The first turtle was found by a local resident when he went for an early morning swim. David and Sue from the DRI Research Team were called in, and arranged to take it to the Melbourne Aquarium to be checked over, and hopefully, eventually released.



Resting near Mt Martha Life Saving Club



Being assessed at the Aquarium for any injuries and its general health



On the move



Safely at the Aquarium

Whilst David and Sue were taking the Mt Martha turtle to the Aquarium, a second green sea turtle was found stranded at Dromana. This one, too, was taken to the Aquarium to be assessed. Each turtle weighed more than 9.5 kg, was more than 40 cm long and they were believed to be between 7 and 10 years of age.

Unfortunately, one of the turtles died the next day. The other one will remain at the Aquarium in rehabilitation for the next couple of months, as it is in a critical condition. Once it is fully fit, it will be released in warmer waters - not Port Phillip in winter!

It was also a lucky day for a little pied cormorant that was spotted by Sue on the tram tracks in King St, Melbourne. It was rescued too, but this one went to Melbourne Zoo, not the Aquarium. A very busy day for the DRI Research Team!

'i sea, i care TV - on Totally Wild !

Marine pollution, catchments and Ambassadors at work

Visit www.dolphinresearch.org.au and follow the links



'i sea, i care' Awards! - 2010

Enter the 'i sea, i care' awards. WIN great prizes for you and your school!



Ambassador of the year

To enter, simply respond to the following questions:

1. Why should you be named ambassador of the year?
2. How will you continue your ambassador role into the future?

Ambassador school of the year

To enter, simply respond to the following questions:

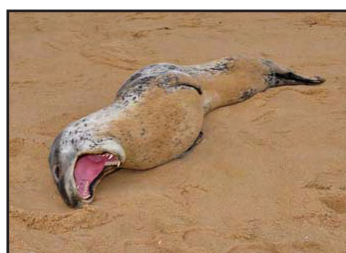
1. How have your school ambassadors grasped the 'i sea, i care' concept this year?
2. Why should your school be named 'i sea, i care' school of the year?

What to include - You can write, send pictures, make movies, whatever you like, to highlight your work this year.

Post entries to - Dolphin Research Institute P.O. Box 77 Hastings, Vic 3915.

Entries close - 19th November 2010

..... Leopard seals



Lazy afternoon at Seaford

The majority of sightings of leopard seals in Victoria occur between July and October, as this is when the Antarctic pack-ice increases northward, which leads the seals to head north as well. Leopard seals have been recorded along the entire Victorian coast, usually on ocean beaches, but sometimes they enter Port Phillip.

During one weekend in August this year, three leopard seals were sighted. One in Stingray Bay, near Warrnambool, one

at Cleeland Bight, Phillip Island, (it left overnight on the high tide), and the third was in Port Phillip at Seaford. This one (pictured) arrived in the morning, rested for a few hours and went back into the bay in the afternoon when a rain storm came through.

On Monday, it was seen at Canadian Bay, Mt Eliza, where again it spent the day resting, before swimming off in the afternoon. It was quite thin, but seemed healthy.



Photos : Alison Kuitert

IMAX - Movie Congratulations



Dolphin Research Institute field officer David Donnelly was involved in filming 'Dolphins and Whales 3D' which premiered in Melbourne during September.

David filmed the humpbacks in Tonga earlier this year and took some unbelievable footage.

See it in 3D!

"I Can Do That!" Student Camp

Recently, Torquay College held a Conservation Camp in Anglesea. The main focus was to encourage students to teach each other about local and global conservation issues. Representatives from years 3-6, from seven local schools, participated.

Torquay College's ISIC ambassadors, Ellie Madigan and Sienna Miller, ran a workshop about the marine mammals of the Southern Ocean and the



Ellie and Sienna teaching peers about our marine environment.

importance of protecting them. They practiced and used presentation skills gained from an earlier ISIC workshop. It was a great way to spread the word about Victoria's amazing Marine Treasures! Great work Ambassadors.

Victoria's marine world by the numbers

55

The number of schools competing for our 'i sea, i care' Awards this year.

87

The number of 'i sea i care' Ambassadors who attended our Melbourne workshop.

15th Oct

The date Dolphin Research Institute will be on *Totally Wild* (7:30am), again!

19th Sept

The date killer whales were recorded off Mt Eliza, Port Phillip. Awesome!