

Bluefin Excursion - 8/6/2005

The 'I Sea, I Care' ambassadors were offered an experience of a lifetime. They were invited to board the Australian Maritime College's research vessel Bluefin. Bluefin is a 34.5m purpose built fisheries research and training vessel operated by the Australian Maritime College Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Environment. It is equipped to conduct various types of fishing and scientific sampling and hydro graphic operations. After boarding the boat and seeing the film crew and cameras the ambassadors got down to business. They were able to see the vessel in full operation and got to view the marine habitat via camera off Sorrento as well as get their hands dirty examining fish, sponges and sea worms. We can verify that Port Phillip Bay is home to some incredible creatures that we need to make sure we take care of.



Bobo, the chef on board the Bluefin prepared a sensational lunch of chicken soup, salad sandwiches and cakes. This kept us going for the second half of the day. In hindsight having lunch before dissecting fish wasn't a great idea however we



managed to get through it and learn that you can tell the age of a fish by looking at the number of rings in its ear bones. We were then able to look at deep sea fish which have little lights on their head and look very prehistoric.

9 Killer Whales were spotted feeding off Sorrento the day before we went out on Bluefin. We weren't disappointed however we got to see some seals and a Port Jackson shark.

The day taught us about caring for our marine environment, appreciating it and sustaining it for future generations.

We would like to thank Jeff and Susan from the Dolphin Research Institute as well the Bluefin crew for organising a fantastic and unique opportunity to look at our marine life.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the 'I Sea, I Care' award is being presented this Monday at assembly.

Thanks - The 'I Sea, I Care' ambassadors