

Building Marine and Coastal Self Esteem



Young leaders like Chloe Anstey (pictured) are passionate about their role as 'i sea, i care' Ambassadors.

They are trained as peer educators and public speakers to share the experiences they gain at our workshops with their school community.

Building pride and caring for our bays is critical to not only protecting our dolphins but all our unique marine treasures.

We talk about the concept of "Marine and Coastal Self Esteem".

People who have a strong sense of self esteem are more likely to look after their "personal environment".

We want to develop a community with strong "self esteem" for our coasts and bays.

This is an important concept because we only protect what we care about.

It is also important because, like personal self esteem, our perception of the environment is easily damaged and complicated to repair.

It is certainly more than a few "awareness" or education campaigns can achieve.

This is why DRI has worked so hard to develop our 'i sea, i care' Ambassador Program.

Over 2000 young ambassadors, like Chloe, have participated in the program, sharing the 'i sea, i care' messages to many hundreds of thousands.



We all need an injection of local marine and coastal self esteem.

Concerns Regarding the Vessel Impacts on our Dolphins

The first hint of spring with calmer conditions allowed us to check on "DD" who had recently suffered a major trauma to its dorsal fin from a boat propeller (last newsletter).



The image shows that DD's wound seems to be healing but that it will leave permanent disfigurement.

Boat strike and entanglements can be fatal but are fortunately not common. The impacts of vessels regularly interrupting behaviours could have a greater impact on the population.

We will feature this more in the Summer Newsletter.

Partnerships Help 'i sea, i care' Grow

We are delighted that more schools and young leaders will be able to participate with 'i sea, i care' in the 2013 / 2014 year thanks to renewed partnerships with the Cities of Kingston and Casey, and a new partnership with the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

This means another 120 ambassadors from 30 schools will be joining the program and taking our stories about Victoria's marine treasures to nearly 15,000 people!



Nominated for two 2013 Coastal Awards



DRI has been nominated in two categories in the 2013 Victorian Coastal Awards of Excellence.

One is for Marine and Coastal Education and focuses on our work with the City of Kingston. The other category is for Community Partnerships.

We will let you know how we go in the next newsletter.

DRI's Research Shared at National Conference

Sue Mason, DRI's Research Officer, recently presented her work on the common dolphins at the conference of the Australian Marine Sciences Association in Queensland.

Moonraker trips for DRI Members

We are setting sail on the weekend of November 16 and 17 for an afternoon of swimming with Port Phillip's dolphins and seals - or enjoying the view from aboard the fully licenced vessel, Moonraker.



Book direct to Moonraker Charters on 5984 4211. Don't forget to tell them that you're a DRI Member. We look forward to seeing you aboard!



Letter from the Chair

By Ian Stevenson

As you read this edition you will see words like “Building”, “Concern”, “Partnerships”, “Nominated”, “Shared”, “Champions”, “Future” and “Excellence”.

They say much about DRI’s positive, collaborative and constructive approach and culture.

You can’t help but be moved by the inspiring image of Chloe on the front page -- helping us to promote Marine and Coastal Self Esteem as an ‘*i sea, i care*’ Ambassador.

Elsewhere you will see images of nearly 100 other ambassadors and people in businesses who are all doing their bit to support our work.

You will also see the images from our research; DD’s badly injured dorsal fin and the VADAR tracks of our common dolphins near Mornington.

Whilst Sue doesn’t say it, her use of this methodology is the first



of its type in the world. So you could probably add “Pioneer” to the list!

But it’s more than words, it’s about working with people to make our world a better place.

Look at the faces in the pictures and you can see what I mean.

Our draft annual report is now posted on the website. It reinforces that we are effectively managing our organization and gives confidence that every cent you donate is well directed.

We are very proud of the team of staff and volunteers (including the children) and all our supporters, who truly help us to deliver important outcomes for our dolphins and the marine environment.

Champions for DRI



Clockwise from top left; Degani’s cafe (Frankston), Tully’s Produce (Moorooduc), Mt Eliza Deli, Bayside Fruit and Vegetable Market (Frankston), and Palamara Village Fruits (Mt Eliza)

Local businesses are doing their bit to help protect our very special bay by hosting collection tins for DRI.

The staff in Bayside Fruit and Vegetable Market have turned it into a competition and weigh their tins to see who is raising the most!

Over \$500 has already been raised through the efforts of these businesses. It will support our research and education programs.

If you would like to help too, call 1300 130 949.

Thanks to our Supporters

Avante Marine
 Canon Australia
 City of Casey
 City of Frankston
 City of Kingston
 Club Marine
 Coastcare
 Eastern District Computer Services
 Esso & BHP Billiton
 Fantech
 Good Company
 Ian Potter Foundation
 KISS Print Services
 Lord Mayor’s Fund
 Martha Cove
 Melbourne Water
 Midland Insurance Brokers
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 Mornington Sea Glass
 Mornington Peninsula Shire
 National Bank
 Natures Organics
 Parks Victoria
 Perpetual Trustees
 Ritchies Supermarkets
 Visitor Publications
 Western Port Marina
 White Cleland Solicitors
 Yaringa Marina



Welcome to our new Members!

Jeffrey Foden
 Kunyung Primary School
 Alexandra Mramor

Barbara Vogler
 Tylah Wallace

Ritchies Community Benefit Card-
an easy way to help DRI. Get your free CB card from any Ritchies store, and 5c of every \$10 you spend comes straight to DRI! Or we can send you a card or key-tag, call us on 1300 130 949!



Christmas or anytime

The Dolphin Book \$17 Cap \$15
 Pen \$5 Stress Dolphin \$3



To order phone 1300 130 949 (plus postage \$2)



Sue Mason
Research
Officer

There have been disturbing reports from Ireland recently of a bottlenose dolphin in Doolin, County Clare attacking swimmers. One person has been hospitalized with a compressed vertebrae, broken rib and injuries to her lungs. Signs have been erected warning of the dangers of swimming with this animal (known as Dusty); these have often been ignored, with people being injured over the past two years.

Dr Simon Berrow of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) was reported in the Irish Examiner as having said that the dolphin, "tormented" by some swimmers, may kill someone, or she may have to be removed or destroyed.

This is timely to consider as we approach summer. People need to remember that dolphins are wild animals - **let them come to you, if they want to.**

REMEMBER

Don't deliberately approach dolphins closer than 100m (jet skis 300m). Severe penalties apply for breaching the regulations.

Report cases of harassment to **DEPI on 136 186.** Or call DRI and we can help you.

Keep dolphins in the bay
STAY 100 METRES AWAY



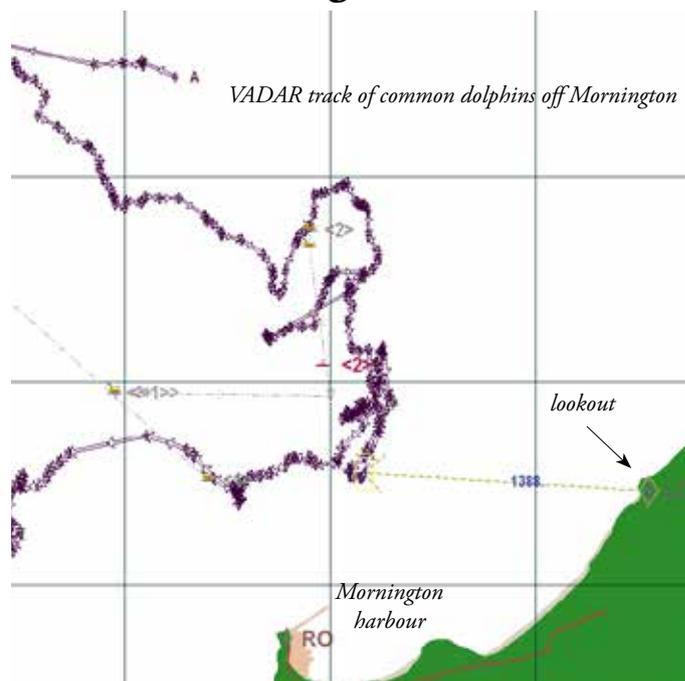
Common dolphin research is making tracks

By Sue Mason

My PhD work has provided us with some opportunities to further our research methods. For the first time, DRI has set up a land-based survey site and used a surveyor's theodolite connected to a computer and the software VADAR to determine the GPS location of the resident short-beaked common dolphins while we watch from our lookout in Mornington.

We are now able to track and monitor both the bottlenose and common dolphin movements from as far away as 4 km without stepping on a boat. The benefit is that we get to see the 'big picture' of their movements, and how the groups split and join on a regular basis.

The diagram opposite shows the tracks plotted of the common dolphins on one day of observation. Each sighting



is logged into the computer, from a position obtained using the theodolite. From this data, the VADAR software plots the movement of the dolphins. The arrows above show that the dolphins moved from Schnapper Point, spent time

north off Mornington and went some way into the bay.

Our thanks to Dr Eric Kneist from the University of Newcastle for the loan of a theodolite and for setting up the software specifically for the use at our site.

Whales' Weekend

For the past thirteen years, the Dolphin Research Institute (DRI) has received reports of humpback whales in Port Phillip over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. The DRI research team has joked for sometime that the long weekend break should be referred to as the 'Whale Weekend', but we are now beginning to think seriously about the label.

This year was no exception. Sue Mason and her volunteers were on their Mornington lookout on the Saturday when Sue saw a humpback's fluke in the theodolite. This is a familiar sight for Sue who has worked on humpback projects in Hawaii, Hervey Bay, the Sunshine Coast and southern Western Australia. However, it is very exciting to see humpbacks in our home waters.

Humpback whales are currently on their northbound migration to the warmer Pacific waters. Some whales, often those not yet sexually mature, visit Port Phillip in what we humans might refer to as pure curiosity. The two sub-adult animals that were spotted in Port Phillip on Saturday left the bay on Sunday afternoon. (The whales' visit to Port Phillip coincided with 'World Ocean Day'.)

Several humpbacks have also been observed in Western Port this year.

Like all wild animals, humpback whale behaviour can be unpredictable. Regulations are in place to protect both those that observe whales and the whales themselves. Remember you are not permitted to approach within 200m of the animals, maintain a consistent speed of less than 5 knots and don't make sudden changes in direction.



Humpback off Portsea, 2009. Photo Sue Mason

Mandy Robertson
Education
Director



Winter has us in her grip but our work continues unabated. It has been a great season for whale sightings with hundreds of humpbacks passing along our coastal beaches on their way past to warmer waters.

I tend to focus a lot on our amazing Ambassadors and the work they do but our core education programs are also a key part of our strength and therefore success. Every year almost 5000 adults and students learn about Victoria's Marine Treasures being 'too precious to lose'.

And this year we welcomed another retired teacher, Russell King, to join our wonderful education team.



Cheers Mandy



We appreciate Melbourne Water's continued support as our major *'i sea, i care'* partner for 2013.

Clubs, community groups - are you looking for something different for your next outing?

Get a new outlook on Victoria's Living Marine Treasures - and, we can come to you!!

1300 130 949

or email

**education@
dolphinsresearch.org.au**

'i sea, i care' is building for the future

Kingston

We are now in the third year of our partnership with City of Kingston and the photos here show the Ambassadors at Banyan Reserve in June. By the end of this term, we will have 28 schools enrolled across the region. A celebration of the 2012-2013 year will take place on 17 October at Chelsea Town Hall.



Kingston Ambassadors at the litter trap

Melbourne

Ambassadors from across the region attended the most recent workshop at Banyan Reserve. Next term, we are very privileged to have Adam McGuinness working with our Ambassadors about Bunurong culture and heritage and the connection to Warringine.



Melbourne Ambassadors at Banyan reserve

Mornington Peninsula

We are delighted to announce the latest in our council partnerships, with ten schools invited to join, on both the Port Phillip and Western Port sides of the peninsula.

Casey

After our launch in May, we had interest from several schools in Casey to join. We now have nine schools signed to start in Term 4, with a trip out on Western Port as the first workshop. This program

is modelled on the successful Kingston partnership and we look forward to working with many Ambassadors over the next few years.

Bayside

This year saw the launch of a smaller version of Marine Ambassadors in collaboration with Bayside City Council. Ambassadors from six schools in the local area attended a workshop at Ricketts Point. The focus was peer teaching and Marine National Parks. The Ambassadors received their certificates from Acting Mayor Councillor James Long.



Bayside Ambassadors with their certificates at Ricketts Point

From an Ambassador

The following extract was written by one of our young Kingston Ambassadors in support of the nomination of *'i sea, i care'* in the City of Kingston for the Victorian Coastal Awards.

"I first heard about the 'i sea, i care' program last year when

Mandy came to our school.

When she talked to us I was so absorbed in everything she said. I was so interested in it all I couldn't stop talking about it at home for days. I decided right then and there that being an ambassador for this cause would be awesome and a really important job. I felt I could

represent this cause well as I felt so passionately about it.

To represent an organisation such as 'i sea, i care' would be a great honour and I felt I would be perfect for the job. I believed in everything they were trying to do - Save our Marine Environment!"