DOLPHIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Proudly brought to you by your Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast *'i sea, i care'* Ambassadors

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AMBASSADORS LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Point Lonsdale in a new light!

The rock pools under the lighthouse at Point Lonsdale are the perfect place to begin the last workshop for 2018, wandering among the seaweed beds and deep pools full of tiny fish and scrambling across the limestone looking at molluscs of all shapes and sizes. A big swell out beyond the reef reminds us that the ocean is the life force of this planet, and that sometimes the world behaves as though we have somewhere else to go. Then it was off to the foreshore for a dive into the microscopic world of sea grass, before learning about the region's rich indigenous culture, both past, present and most importantly, future.

Congratulations to all the Ambassadors for an amazing year of hard work and real achievements in your school communities.

Many thanks to Catholic Education Melbourne for the continued support of the program and Melinda Kennedy from the Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation for the wonderful connection to country.

ONE BLOWHOLE OR TWO?

Dolphins and whales, being mammals, need to breathe air just like we do. Living in water obviously creates a challenge as they need to come to the surface to do this. Consequently the blowhole(s) are located on the top of the head, behind the skull. These blowholes are akin to our nostrils.

In the ancestor of all modern whales and dolphins, they were located in the same place, on the face. This ancestor lived around 50 million years ago and was a small, deer-like animal that lived on land. As evolutionary changes occurred, the nostrils gradually migrated to the top of the head to allow the animals to become completely amphibious.

But why do some species only have one blowhole when we have two nostrils? The answer lies in the communication used by each species. In whales like humpbacks, blue and southern rights, there are still two blowholes. These whales are called baleen whales as they have baleen plates in their mouth instead of teeth.

For all the dolphins and toothed whales such as sperm whales, however, there is only one blowhole - the other one has evolved into the sonar centre that these animals use to communicate, navigate and also hunt! These sounds travel through the water as pressure waves and bounce back off schools of fish, boats and reefs.

Look out for our two dolphin species, the bottlenose and common, this summer and marvel at their amazing history.

Above: common dolphin (Port Phillip) Below: humpback whale calf (Bass Strait) DRI images